Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Ricardo Alarcon Meets With Visiting Americans

FL1210144093 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Excerpts] [Announcer] The first day of activities of the almost 200 Americans who have arrived in our capital in defiance of the [words indistinct] carried out an intense program of activities, as journalist Rey Rodriguez reports.

[Rodriguez] This morning [11 October], the group met with the Cuban and foreign press to discuss the organization of this trip and the threats to which they have been subjected within the United States itself, for visiting the island. The regulations against travel to Cuba were originally promulgated by the John F. Kennedy administration in 1962, reinforced during the Reagan government, and reinforced still further through the Torricelli Amendment of 1992. [passage omitted]

Moments later, the group met National Assembly President Ricardo Alarcon, who answered questions on Cuba's current situation, the way the Cuban legislature works, and the consequences of the blockade imposed on the island by the United States. The president of the Cuban legislature spoke with this reporter.

[Begin recording] [Rodriguez] Could this in some way change U.S. policy?

[Alarcon] I think these things are going to obligatorily bring about a gradual change in policy. However, that is not an easy process, not an automatic decision. It is going to require that there be an increase in actions such as these; require that such actions gradually create greater awareness and, above all, that such actions gradually create increasing pressure on the U.S. legislators, the U.S. politicians, who are the people responsible for that policy." [end recording]

[Rodriguez] This trip is considered the third attempt by Americans to challenge the U.S. blockade. The Pastors for Peace caravan was the protagonist in a similar action last August. This has been Rey Rodriguez, reporting from the Cuban Institute of Friendship With Peoples.

Robaina, Democratic Representatives Meet in New York

PA1210141693 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] The meeting in New York City between Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina and U.S. Democratic Representatives Charles Rangel, Jose Serrano, and Nydia Velazquez featured a broad exchange of opinions. During the meeting, which took place in Rangel's residence, Robaina brought his interlocutors up to date on the Cuban situation and listened to his hosts.

Rangel, a representative for New York City's 15th District, was one of the main opponents of the Torricelli Law, and he drafted a legislative bill aimed at putting an end to the U.S. economic blockade against Cuba. Serrano has denounced the pressure that small Cuban counterrevolutionary groups are exerting on the U.S. Congress. Nydia Velazquez has expressed positions of friendship for Cuba and against the blockade.

Amid a busy agenda on the framework of his participation in the 48th UN General Assembly session, the Cuban foreign minister met with ambassadors from countries that have missions in Havana. He also visited Casa de las Americas, an institution created more than 40 years ago by Cubans who live in New York and who feel close to the cause of the land where they were born.

Commentary Analyzes Haiti-U.S. Situation

FL1310032393 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Commentary by Orlando Contreras]

[Text] This would seem political fiction. It seems that two of the 20 poorest countries in the world—Somalia and Haiti—are breaking up one of the positions of the foreign policy of the nation with the greatest military and, to a large degree, economic might in the world. The ghosts of those killed in Somalia today counseled President Bill Clinton to renounce a military landing in Haiti and ask the Security Council to reimpose the most drastic economic sanctions instead.

On Monday, port workers, armed civilians—most likely under the instruction of coup leader General Raoul Cedras—and the people in general, with chants of "Yankees Go Home" and "We Will be a Second Somalia," prevented the landing of 200 U.S. soldiers. Today, the U.S. Navy ship, Harlan County, set sail from Port-au-Prince with instructions to drop anchor outside Haitian territorial waters [en la linea del horizonte].

Before continuing this commentary, I would like to reiterate something everyone already knows. The coup that in September 1991 overthrew the first president elected by the masses in Haiti, Jean- Bertrand Aristide, deserved rejection by the international community. But it should also be noted that the previous U.S. administration looked at Aristide with distrust and did little to avert the bloody military uprising. It is also appropriate to mention that this century's U.S. invasions of Haiti have brought dictatorship and terror to that long-suffering, impoverished nation.

Coupists, Gen. Cedras and the Chief of Police Michel Francois, have skillfully taken advantage of the legitimate nationalist feelings of the Haitian people to reject what they see as a foreign military intervention: Yankees, to be specific. They have thus followed the example of Somali General Mohammed Farrah Aidid, head of one faction of a society that is still divided into clans.

The current U.S. administration has inherited the policy of peace missions at gunpoint from Reaganism and Bushism. It has even used the same method, dragging the United Nations, through its Security Council, into these adventures.

Here we can apply the premise that everyone wants to take credit for victories, but seeks scapegoats for defeats or political failures: Today Washington stated that the United Nations has not measured up to these missions. The influential NEW YORK TIMES points out on its front page that the United Nations has lost influence. The leader of the Republican minority, Senator Robert Dole, calls for the disengagement of the United States from these UN operations.

They all seem to forget that it was Washington who involved the UN Security Council in these adventures, and now the chain has broken at its weakest link. Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher calls for a total economic blockade, remembering that Haiti, because of its geographic location, is considered of vital interest to his country.

Critics in the United States and Europe do not overlook the contradictions and lack of creativity of this foreign policy. Perhaps these events and others that might occur could make U.S. theorists who proclaim the need to impose on the weak, accept curtailed sovereignty, a position which was also endorsed by UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali in his inaugural speech.

What could ostensibly be viewed as political fiction is in fact a deep, tragic reality. In the face of a powerful invader, a nation usually rises above internal disagreements, some of which are based on legitimate, substantiated causes, while others are instigated from abroad.

Commentary Reacts to Parlatino Statements

PA1310004193 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Commentary by Roberto Morejon from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Public statements by some of the members of a special commission appointed by the Latin American Parliament [Parlatino] to study the Cuban situation have demonstrated their bias toward an interventionist position. Humberto Pelaez, the president of the group [name and title as heard], announced that the commission would meet with the so-called Cuban opposition groups. His words revealed ongoing efforts to manipulate the committee's report. The members of the commission—which was created by a Parlatino agreement signed on 20 August—revealed preconceived notions about the political model that Cuba must implement in order to be considered, in their opinion, a democratic nation.

Eduardo Varela Cid, an Argentine deputy and a member of the commission, told the Colombian daily EL ESPECTADOR: We are programming a series of activities that will end when there is a democratic system in Cuba as we envision it, with a pluralist political system. The commission's objectivity is placed in doubt by the prejudice displayed by its members, who cannot conceive of the Cuban people's right to create a political system based on their own special circumstances and needs.

According to the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], the imprudence and lack of goodwill shown by some of the members of this special Parlatino commission became a campaign of political opportunism, purely to benefit Cuba's critics. It is no wonder this ANPP Standing Committee suggested suspending the special commission's work until its members' conduct can be reviewed at the next meeting of the Parlatino Board of Directors.

Initially, Cuba agreed to collaborate with the commission's decisions, after rejecting the proposed procedure that was left open to manipulation by third parties interested in interfering in Cuba's internal affairs. Cuba's doubts were well-founded. This can be seen in public statements by several members of this Parlatino special commission. It is clear that the commission's members will be unable to do any constructive work unless they recognize the legitimacy of political diversity and the respect that each country's decisions deserve regarding the political system under which they have chosen to live.

Commentary Discusses Transition in Russia

FL1110032193 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Commentary by Eduardo Dimas]

[Text] I believe you will agree with me when I say that the images of the Russian parliament, bombarded and in flames, marked the end of an era in the recent history of that country, and the beginning of another. Actually, for some time, the Russian Government needed to define itself. In practice, the contradictions between the executive and legislative branches made it impossible to govern in a time when the country was making such transcendental changes in its economic and political systems: the change from socialism to capitalism, something new in the changes of mankind.

The events that took place on Sunday, 3 October, during which the forces loyal to the parliament, an insufficiently armed, heterogeneous minority, attacked television headquarters and the municipal building in Moscow, gave President Boris Yeltsin a reason to bombard, storm, and take control of the parliament and proceed to the arrest of its leaders. To do this, Yeltsin had the support of the Armed Forces, security forces, the Ministry of the Interior, and, I would say, of the majority, who sympathized with the president despite their seeming apathy in barely foregoing their habitual activities.

In Moscow, with a population of 10 million people, a few thousand citizens supported the parliamentarians, while several tens of thousands supported Yeltsin. In the rest of the country, there was almost absolute calm. It seems that the population did not feel they were part of the struggle for power.

Something that caught my attention was the composition of the forces that supported the parliament. On one hand, anti-semitic, nationalistic monarchists, and on the other hand, members of communist parties, a minority in the Russian political context. It is evident that it was an impossible union.

The fall of the parliament has allowed Yeltsin to suspend the constitutional court, ban parties and the media, assume prerogatives that belong to the legislative branch, eliminate all the Soviets of the Moscow region; in other words, to govern by decree, all of which is a consequence of the situation that has been created. Above all, it has allowed him to strengthen his position.

Therefore, the Russian Government has become an autocratic government, something which we could have expected. A bicameral parliament will emerge from the elections called for 12 December. This body will be in charge of approving the new constitution which, most likely, will be an autocratic one.

Some Western governments and news agencies have expressed their concern because President Yeltsin's measures violate democratic principles, such as the alleged freedoms of the press, parties, etc. In my opinion, these expressions of concern are no more than pure hypocrisy. They know very well that a situation such as the one in Russia for these measures, and I am sure they expected them.

As I said at the beginning, it is the end of an era in Russia and the beginning of a new stage, which will be centered on the reforms that will accelerate its transition to a market economy. Transferring concepts from the developed bourgeois democracies to a country whose history, traditions, and idiosyncrasies are different implies that governments and citizens will need to be retrained. Time is required for this. Therefore, they face a period of transition.

Police Try to Stem Crime With Increased Surveillance

PA1310000393 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2205 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Havana, 9 Oct (NOTIMEX)—The Cuban National Revolutionary Police reported today that they have deployed 1,225 new police units in Havana to "contribute" to the elimination of crime, which has increased in the last three years. The police also trained hundreds of former military soldiers in anticrime techniques so that they could join the campaign against theft in state warehouses and reduce holdups of foreign tourists.

It was learned today that the city of Havana's Provincial Tribunal sentenced several Cubans who had stolen tons of food from state warehouses with the intention of selling it on Havana's black market.

The tribunal charged 12 people with swindling and complicity. Juan Figueroa and Miguel Herrera were sentenced to 10 years in prison, Gilberto Rivero to seven, Enrique Wallen to five, and Georman Martinez and Raciel Cruz to four. David Hernandez to three, Laudisvel Clazadilla and Arturo Alvarez to two years. Three more people will each pay a fine of 300 quotas of 20 Cuban pesos (a total of $6,000).

The Cuban Government announced this week that it will step up police operations to "actively constrain" behavior and actions that are criminal, antisocial, and counterrevolutionary.

Government officials and Communist Party of Cuba leaders said that crime cannot be resolved with temporary campaigns "but instead through systematic and balanced work by everyone to reduce it to permissible limits."

The National Revolutionary Police has stepped up its fight against crime since July by attempting to disband the black market, end theft, and discourage prostitution.

It was officially reported that the 1,225 police units deployed in Havana, the focal point for robberies, holdups, and swindles, were "trained" to specifically fight crime "for the sake of the citizens' tranquillity."

Policemen Selected From Military Call-Up Take Oath

FL0910161193 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1411 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Upon concluding their technical training, some 100 new agents of internal order signed their oaths at the National Revolutionary Police's [PNR] "Noncommissioned Officer Pedro Ortiz Cabrera Basic School." The young policemen come from the call-up to general military service in the FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces] that was effected in the capital last August, and they agreed to join the PNR and to remain in it for five years.

The new troops have a 12th grade educational level, and they range in age from 18 to 20. They will complete their professional training in a one-year basic course that prepares them to carry out their duties.

A few weeks ago, the PNR designated 1,225 duly trained agents of internal order for Havana City, with the goal of maintaining security and the citizenry's tranquility.

Raul Castro Lauds Achievements in Granma Province

FL1310010393 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2320 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] The intensive work being carried out by the people of Granma Province was emphasized at the provincial assembly of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] last weekend.

The PCC provincial assembly in Granma received a congratulatory message from General Raul Castro, second secretary of the PCC and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces. In his message, Castro conveys satisfaction with the progress made in Granma in the socioeconomic and defense areas.

The provincial PCC assembly was presided over by Politburo members Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, Jose Ramon Balaguer Cabrera, and Maria de los Angeles Garcia; and by Guillermo Garcia Frias, a member of the Central Committee. Elected at the assembly was the new provincial committee and its executive bureau. Alfredo Enriquez Pina, a member of the Central Committee, was confirmed in his post as first secretary of the executive bureau.

It has been reported that the Basic Cooperative Production Units in the sugarcane sector should mark a qualitative turnaround in production and improve care of canefields while successfully undertaking repair work at sugarmills, especially regarding manufacturing and repair of equipment parts.

Speaking at the assembly, Machado Ventura touched on several topics raised by the delegates, and reiterated the need to be open to alternate courses of action and to promote savings.

Paper Shortage Forces Reduction of Publications

PA1210235593 Paris AFP in Spanish 1046 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Havana, 12 Oct (AFP)—Already forced into a rationing regimen since October 1990, when paper imports at advantageous conditions from the former Soviet Union ended, the Cuban press currently taces an extremely difficult situation that might become critical by early 1994. Two of the main official newspapers on the island have announced a decrease in the number of pages or publications, while a third mentions the possibility of ceasing publication altogether due to the lack of paper.

GRANMA, the official newspaper of the Communist Party of Cuba, already transformed into a tabloid, reduced its number of pages in late August to conserve paper. The only national newspaper that has survived the crisis provoked by the end of privileged economic exchange with the former Soviet Union, GRANMA now has a circulation of 400,000, down from its previous 600,000. It only prints in black and white, and each issue is between four and eight pages.

JUVENTUD REBELDE, the old newspaper of the Union of Young Communists that became a weekly two years ago, announced that its paper reserves will only allow it to "hold up" until June. According to its editorial staff, the newspaper is in "danger of disappearing."

The weekly BOHEMIA, the oldest Cuban newspaper, decided to publish every 15 days, given "the scant amount of paper in stock and the inability to purchase paper on the international market right now."

Roberto Rubio, vice president of the Polygraphic Integration company, which is in charge of managing and distributing newsprint in Cuba, confirmed the low level of paper reserves, adding that these consist only of poor quality Soviet paper. The paper, yellowed with age, gives all Cuban press an antiquated look and allows only mediocre photographic reproductions.

According to Rubio, despite the lack of foreign exchange, Cuba is currently seeking financing that will allow it to renew its paper imports. The goal is "to protect the press and maintain the current level of publications and circulation until next year," both in Havana and the provinces, where 15 existing newspapers were changed to weeklies when the crisis began, he said.

Moreover, Cuba has begun producing sugar cane bagasse paper. Following years of research conducted with the help of the UN Development Program, it has produced a paper manufactured with approximately 80 percent bagasse pulp, and it has been tested in several printings. According to specialists, this paper, which is of a lower quality than the one manufactured from wood and cannot be used in all printing systems, is only a contribution and cannot fully replace imported paper.

Social consequences resulting from the progressive disappearance of the Cuban press have already been felt, although officially there is no unemployment in Cuba. Many journalists are unemployed or have begun working at radio stations, and a sizable number of graphic artists are now self-employed. They have their own printing shops and produce articles destined for sale in dollars. The lack of paper has also provoked a sharp decrease in the publication of textbooks and manuals. The National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists (UNEAC) said only 78 titles with a total of 300,000 copies were published in 1992. Prior to 1989, annual production ranged between 700 and 900 titles and between 15 and 20 million copies.

Politburo Member on Educating Students About UBPC System

FL1210201793 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Maria de los Angeles Garcia, chief of the Education, Science, and Sports Department of the Central

Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, told journalist Carlos Sanabria Marrero that the current school year is coming along satisfactorily in education of all types.

[Begin Garcia recording] (?This) does not mean that no difficulties or shortages exist, or that we do not have problems with regard to certain materials, or that we are not having to deal with the real situation that the entire nation is going through. Nevertheless, if, at the beginning of the school year, the goal we set for ourselves was to maintain the teaching and the educational activity with the quality the current times require as regards the work done with the students, as regards strengthening the teaching personnel, as regards promoting the tasks in each province—where the students participate in agriculture, participate in the community's activities and, first and foremost, make an effort to be good students—well, in that sense, the work is being kept up.

These new problems, this matter of the Basic Cooperative Production Units [UBPC] that we are discussing, must be explained to the student. The student must know what the unit is, why this is being done, what role these units play, what the nation expects to achieve through this reorganization, how these units are a form of socialist applications to production, in agricultural and in agricultural-livestock activity as well.

That is to say, the role of the school and of the teacher is, at this moment, irreplaceable. [end recording]

That was Politburo member Maria de los Angeles Garcia on how the current school year is going.

This is the National Radio Newscast in Santiago de Cuba.

U.S. Antidrug Policy Upsets Indian Communities

PA1010212493 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 8 Oct 93

["Our America" commentary read by Manolo Ortega; from the "Revista Information Review" newscast]

[Text] The U.S. policy of always combating drug traffic outside the United States not only has been sterile but has turned into a disturbing element that upsets the lives of large indigenous communities from various parts of the continent.

Recently several Indian communities denounced the presence of 50 U.S. military personnel in their jungle reserves of Araracuara, Caqueta Department, in Colombia. There, U.S. soldiers have installed radars to detect drug-trafficking flights from Peru and Bolivia.

The Indian National Organization has charged that in addition to the U.S. soldiers, there are 150 Colombian military personnel who guard the foreigners' installations and security. The local media has added that an air base will be installed in the area, supposedly to help the region's development.

In addition to violating the Indians' rights as established in the Constitution, the radar's construction has contaminated the small rivers from which the local communities and a school obtain their water; several kilometers of vegetation have been indiscriminately destroyed, and the people's peace has been broken by the presence of hundreds of outsiders who obstruct their hunting, fishing, and cultivation activities.

It looks as if modern life will slowly destroy the lives and cultures of the few indigenous communities that prevail in Latin America. It has always been said—and has been ratified following the Earth Summit—that the protection of nature is vital for the survival of mankind. This belief is also valid for the environment where the indigenous Americans were born and raised, in communities that throughout the years have been decimated by gold seekers, rich landowners, and smugglers of all sort who destroyed the natural environment and criminally endangered indigenous life.

Now, with the argument of persecuting drug-trafficking bands, U.S. troops, who periodically conduct incursions throughout all the Latin American countries, are now doing their thing in Colombia's Amazon region.

Recently the tribes' concern grew because the Colombian Air Force has informed them that the Tres Esquinas Air Base, which now is approximately 300 km from Araracuara, will probably be moved to that region. This would portend the arrival of an additional 3,000 people who would further alter the zone's ecology and human life.

The Indians have become strangers in their own land, the Indians themselves have said. This is why the Colombian Government and the international community must take steps to stop a situation that violates the Earth Summit agreements.

Commentary Views Foreign Minister Robaina's UN Speech

PA0810164793 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Station commentary by Roberto Morejon; from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] When the Cuban delegates, headed by Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina, presented their views during the UN General Assembly's 48th period of sessions, they raised an alarm on the current urgent problems that affect, not only the island, but other areas as well. Robaina's 4 October speech went beyond internal and bilateral situations and discussed matters that concern the Third World in general.

Cuba pointed out that the undeveloped world cannot tolerate a group of countries' attempt to impose on it political, economic, and social organization models that make it possible to maintain the current international order. Robaina alluded to what in fact has become a current trilogy, that is to say, the wealthy countries'

defense, to its ultimate consequences, of concepts they regard as closely interlocked, such as democracy, human rights, and market economy.

With the disappearance of the socialist bloc and the establishment of unipolarity, the industrialized countries drafted a single model for the rest of the world, disregarding the basic respect for the freedom of election. The scheme conceives democracy as attached only to multiple parties and periodic elections and refuses to accept proposals where economic well-being, justice, and human dignity is the most important issue. Regarding human rights, everything has been written, because the impoverished countries of the South are portrayed as the permanent violators and the accusers are always from the opulent North.

As for economic development, the dogma admits no alternatives to the market economy, which is based on the merciless privatization of all societal resources. Robaina says those who profit from the current international order defend, even to an irrational level, their concepts of democracy, human rights, and market economy. We can add that whoever thinks differently is virtually taken out of international law and becomes the target of all kinds of pressure. This is why it is important that Cuba rejected in the United Nations both the attempt by a group of countries to decide, on behalf of the rest, these matters of such importance for all and established clearly how inadmissible it is to have a single view on democracy, human rights, and economic development.

Commentary Explains Global Imperialist Actions, Goals

FL0810153893 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Commentary by Orlando Contreras]

[Text] Throughout history we can see that the most extreme expression of regimes of force, the empires, has always tried to justify their actions of domination through a group of ideas that they try to present as valid reasons and as resulting from efforts toward the common welfare. It does not matter if in the practice laws and treaties are violated, and if rhetorical ideology is used to conceal hegemonic actions, the unjustified use of force, territorial domination, intolerance, and the most despicable crimes.

Nowadays, there are efforts to make everyone believe that mankind has entered a phase that marks the beginning of the end of ideologies. As a consequence, the imperialist hegemonic force in today's world appeals to, maybe as never before, the use of all ideological manifestations, from the crudest to those most requiring the use of science and technology.

One of the ideological manipulations in use today is the relative value of fundamental concepts of international rights such as sovereignty, noninterference in domestic affairs, and respect for self-determination, all of which are the cardinal principles of the rights consecrated by the UN Charter. In other words, they are vulnerable. The trend is to eliminate these rights.

However, the empires are zealous defenders of these rights in their territories and domains. It is a matter of disarming the weaker ones—in other words, the great majority of the world's population—and thus achieving political, ideological, and then judicial justification for expansion, domination, and the despotic rule that the empire exercises at a world level given the circumstances of the military unipolarity that exist today.

Multimillionaire resources are mobilized, consciences are bought, pressures are applied, perks are awarded, and blackmail is used to put together this gigantic political machinery of ideology. These are the cornerstones of the move that a self-generated special commission of the Latin American Parliament is trying to conduct against our country, dismissing the mandate of that very assembly and based on the twisted arguments made in past meetings by some of its members.

That is why the Foreign Relations Committee of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] denounced the temptation, and plans, to put into operation this new meddling ploy against Cuba. The entire text of the ANPP Foreign Relations Committee was published today in GRANMA and has been fully disseminated through our mass media. This is why I am not repeating its essential arguments, nor its antecedents given the [ANPP committee's] categorical rejection of this cunning move. The current ideological and political world climate which promoted it, why it happened, and what goals it seeks are comprised—it seems to me—in the imperial bent to find an excuse for its actions of force and abuse of small but sovereign and dignified countries such as ours.

Castros Elected Veterans Association Delegates

FL0910023393 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0202 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, has been elected a delegate, for Holguin Province, to the national conference to form the Association of Veterans of the Cuban Revolution. Along with the president of the Councils of State and Ministers, the 23-member Holguin delegation is also headed by Army General Raul Castro Ruz, Minister of the FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces], as well as by Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida Bosque.

Working alongside the people with greater determination, and becoming ever more efficient in the tasks of defense, the economy, and other (?missions) are among the objectives of the 29,800 members of the Association of Veterans of the Cuban Revolution in Holguin Province.

The delegates elected this institution's provincial leadership through a secret, direct vote. It has (?25 members) and is headed by Colonel Orcelino Perez Pena.

Lazo Ratified as First Secretary of Santiago de Cuba PCC

FL1110163493 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] The assessment assembly of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] in Santiago de Cuba Province held on 10 October ratified comrade Esteban Lazo Hernandez, a member of the Politburo and vice president of the Council of State, as first secretary of the PCC in that province. The announcement was made as follows:

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] Through a direct and secret vote during the first meeting of the Provincial Committee of the PCC, and to the satisfaction of the population of Santiago de Cuba, we ratify Comrade Esteban Lazo Hernandez as its first secretary. [end recording]

To find out his impression on this result, we went to the stage and got the following statements from Comrade Esteban Lazo.

[Begin recording] [Lazo] I believe it is an honor. It is also the trust that the delegates in this assembly have placed, not only on me, but on the candidacy that was presented. The candidacy was approved though a secret ballot and through an ample participation as a demonstration of our party's unity, which is what we need during times like these.

I believe this gives us an even greater feeling of responsibility toward our people and the party. Undoubtedly, we will do all we can, using our intelligence, will, and effort, to ensure the fulfillment of the agreements reached during this assembly, which are aimed at alleviating the situation our people are currently going through to overcome the special period.

I believe the topics discussed are very important: the recovery of the sugar production, and the food program. As you could see, we objectively analyzed those problems: problems relating to tourism and the understanding and support of our people; problems relating to the scientific area, and coffee production. As comrade [Jose Ramon] Machado [Ventura] said, there are still other issues we were unable to discuss because of lack of time. Those are important issues that must be discussed by the party. They are related to the population, the defense of the fatherland, the unified vigilance and protection system, service problems, and problems related to health care, culture, and sports.

I am very satisfied. If the people reelect a candidate they beleive is willing to fight for the Revolution and the people, one can only feel great satisfaction and sense of commitment towards the fatherland.

[Reporter] Comrade Lazo, one thing is definite: The people of Santiago de Cuba have expressed their love for you by the secret vote giving you 100 percent of the votes. I believe this must be very gratifying for you. Am I right?

[Lazo] Yes. One feels satisfied; but beyond this, one feels a sense of commitment. [end recording]

Roundup of Economic Activity Reported 7 Oct to 11 Oct

FL1110170693

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of fileworthy reports on economic developments in Cuba carried on Havana radio and television in Spanish between 7 October and 11 October.

Radio Rebelde at 2300 GMT on 7 October reports that an ECC-financed donation worth $840,000 has arrived in Cuba through the Spanish Red Cross. It consists of raw materials to produce Neovitamin-II for up to three months. Rebelde adds that a donation from the France-Cuba Solidarity Committee was received today at the Cuban Institute of Friendship with Peoples. It consist of 300 kg of medicines earmarked for the Calixto Garcia ICU and several polyclinics. Rebelde also reports that a donation from Spain arrived today in Cuba aboard the Bahia de Cardenas vessel. The donation includes 53 buses, trucks, medicine, food, school and sanitary supplies, clothing, powered and condensed milk, tires, galvanized roof planks, and cobbler's glue.

Cuba Vision at 2220 GMT on 7 October reports that over 40,000 people are benefiting each day from the nearly 400 mini-dairy facilities created in Camaguey Province, facilities operated by one worker in charge of milking herds ranging between 25 and 30 head. The province has plans to create another 100 such facilities this year. Current provincial milk production is 40,000 liters a day.

Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision at 0000 GMT on 8 October report that four sugarcane Basic Cooperative Production Units [UBPC] have been created in Guantanamo Province. Another 29 UBPC's have been created so far, comprising over 2,000 caballerias. The core of the Minaz work force in the province, or 3,120 workers, has joined the UBPC's. A provincial official stresses that despite delays they expect to complete the 200-caballeria winter planting plan.

Radio Rebelde at 0900 GMT on 8 October reports that Cienfuegos' first UBPC was created in La Caraca Mill area. It has 52 caballerias and 59 workers. In addition, the 37 Agrarian Production Cooperative in the province held an annual assessment meeting and revealed that profits of 2 million pesos were distributed among its members.

Radio Reloj at 1407 GMT on 8 October reports that the first UBPC in the cane sector in Havana has been created at the Manuel Martinez Prieto agroindustrial complex.

Radio Rebelde at 1700 GMT on 8 October carries an interview with International Red Cross official Jose Eugenio Roca, who announces that the International Red Cross will cover the costs involved in maintaining 3,000 hospital beds in Cuba for approximately six months. He said this will include supplying bed sheets, detergents, soap, and supplemental food to improve the diet of those suffering from neuropathy.

Radio Rebelde at 0900 GMT on 9 October reports that the first UBPC for cattle-raising was formed at the Triangulo Cinco livestock enterprise in Jimaguayu. The UBPC has 140 members and is on the Tres de Octubre farm. Another such unit is scheduled to be formed on 9 October at the Triangulo Tres livestock enterprise in Camaguey Municipality. The provincial plan is to establish a UBPC at each enterprise. The rice-growing enterprise plans to form eight UBPC's specializing in rice-growing and another four for tuber production. Sierra de Cubitas' miscellaneous crops enterprise is planning to set up eight UBPCs, and (Citricos Zola), six. When the formation process has been completed, Camaguey will have over 350 UBPC's in agriculture and cattle-raising, in addition to those having to do with sugar.

Radio Rebelde at 1155 GMT on 9 October reports that a UBPC for cane production, "La Troya," has been formed in San Cristobal Municipality, Pinar del Rio Province.

Radio Reloj at 1401 on 9 October reports that the Sugar Industry Ministry office in Santiago de Cuba is taking measures to effect a better sugar harvest than last year's with fewer resources: The province has 1,108 ox teams and expects to receive 400 young bulls from Villa Clara; another 535 animals are currently being trained; the province is making the plows necessary for utilizing animal power; and the brigades that repair access roads to the province's mills and canefields have begun work.

Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks at 0100 GMT on 11 October report that the Costa Rican airline, Lasca, has resumed flights to Havana.

Roundup of Politburo Members' Activities 7 Oct to 12 Oct

FL1210175593

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of fileworthy reports on the activities of members of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] carried on Havana radio and television in Spanish between 7 and 12 October.

Radio Reloj at 1417 GMT on 7 October reports that Politburo members Jorge Lezcano and Candido Palmero have presented the respective banner to the "Hawai Camp," a group of workers from the Cotorro Municipality in Havana City Province, for having sown 200,000 quintals of vegetables and tubers in San Antonio de los Banos Municipality in Havana Province.

Radio Rebelde at 1700 GMT on 7 October reports that Esteban Lazo visited the municipalities of Palma Soriano, Songo-La Maya, and San Luis in Santiago de Cuba Province. Lazo urged everyone to emphasize efficiency and rationality in the coming sugar harvest because, he said, it will be "short, but exhausting."

Radio Rebelde at 0900 GMT on 8 October adds that Esteban Lazo has urged workers to turn the 35th anniversary of the Revolution into an example of extraordinary effort during the sugarcane harvest. Rebelde also reports that Yadira Garcia was in attendance, with Vilma Espin and Luis Alvarez de la Nuez, at the unveiling of a plaque granting Matanzas Maternity Hospital the WHO-UNICEF 'Friend of Infants and Mothers' title.

Radio Rebelde at 2300 GMT on 8 October reports that Julian Rizo Alvarez, Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, Maria de los Angeles Garcia, and Jose Ramon Balaguer Cabrera all attended the provincial assembly of the PCC for Guantanamo Province, which was held on 8 October. Rizo conveyed warm congratulations to the people of Guantanamo from Army General Raul Castro Ruz. Rizo explained that it has been noted that, after a little more than a year and a half, Guantanamo Province has made substantial progress toward solving problems through members' initiatives. PCC Central Committee member Juan Carlos Robinson Agramonte was ratified as PCC first secretary for Guantanamo Province. Today's discussions centered on the development of and prospects for the food program—the production of tubers and vegetables, the coffee harvest, and the cane recovery program. It is reported that there have been big changes since the first visit by the Politburo committee that noted deficiencies and difficulties.

Radio Rebelde at 1700 GMT on 9 October reports that the PCC is holding its assessment assembly for Granma Province in Bayamo. The main topics of discussion at the morning session on 9 October were the food program and cane recovery. Politburo members Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, Jose Ramon Balaguer Cabrera, Maria de los Angeles Garcia, Yadira Garcia Vera, and Commander of the Revolution Guillermo Garcia Frias are presiding over this assessment assembly.

Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision at 0100 GMT on 11 October report that Ricardo Alarcon attended the assessment meeting of District 34 in East Havana, at which voters discussed anticrime measures.

Radio Reloj at 2038 GMT on 11 October reports that a Cuban delegation headed by Pedro Ross Leal will attend the 45th General Council of the World Trade Union Federation, which begins on 12 October in Warsaw, Poland.

Radio Reloj at 2041 GMT on 11 October reports that the Association of Veterans of the Cuban Revolution has been formed in Matanzas Province at a meeting presided over by Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro, and has 18,000 members. The new organization will have over 400 base-level nuclei in the province, and it will be headed by Colonel (Raul Escalona Prosabal).

Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision at 0100 GMT on 12 October report that Sugar Industry Minister Nelson Torres too was present at the assessment assembly of the PCC held in Santiago de Cuba Province at which Esteban Lazo was ratified PCC provincial first secretary. Increased industrial efficiency and agricultural yields are considered indispensable by this assembly, and although it was stated at this assembly that the new Basic Cooperative Production Units [UBPC] can do a lot to help, Nelson Torres made an important explanation, saying: "Let us not think that forming a UBPC is a little magic wand and that there will be a change the next day, that problems will be solved the very next day, and that the insufficiencies and deficiencies we have had can be solved overnight." The assembly was presided over by seven Politburo members.

Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision at 0100 GMT on 12 October report that an unusual meeting took place in Diez de Octubre Municipality, Havana City Province, [attended by Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, visible on screen] between Diez de Octubre residents and People's Government leaders. It was agreed at this meeting that cultural events will take place in parks, theaters, the streets, and other sites, despite the limitations of the special period.

Radio Reloj at 1502 GMT on 12 October reports that Jose Ramon Machado Ventura was present at the PCC provincial assembly in Santiago de Cuba.

Radio Reloj at 1504 GMT on 12 October announces that Pedro Ross Leal has sent a letter of congratulations to the nation's innovators, and that the letter was read at the closing ceremony of the national campaign held at the Antonio Guiteras sugar mill in Las Tunas. Ross's letter says the Cuban union movement is very proud of the innovators, who today number approximately 300,000.

Haiti

Groups Form Revolutionary Council Against Occupation

FL1210153293 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] On 11 October, several right-wing political groups formed the 11 October 1993 Revolutionary Council in order to struggle, they say, against the landing of Marines in Haiti, against oppression, and against neoslavery. These political groups, including the Revolutionary Front for the Advancement and the Progress of Haiti, the National Coalition [CN], the Alliance for the Liberation and the Advancement of Haiti [ALAH], and the Assembly of Democrats for the Republic, have demanded in a resolution, unanimously adopted, the immediate and unconditional departure of the Malval government and the withdrawal by the United Nations and the OAS of the UN mission in Haiti.

The council also asks for the return of the parliamentarians elected on 18 January to the parliament from today on and for the trial of those who are liable for high treason. The council has declared this day of 11 October... [corrects himself] of 12 October National Indignation Day. Parents are invited to keep their children at home until the departure of the occupation troops. The people are invited to demonstrate against occupation. The council says it is ready to form a government as soon as the dismissal of the current team is effective.

[Begin recording, in Creole] [CN spokesman Gerard Bissainthe] The Army has taken its position as a sign of protest and, for our part, we ask that at least the students stay home, that they do not go to school as a sign of indignation.

Moreover, as we said, they must stay home until the forces leave our territorial waters. What we expect from the Army is that it must do its job. The Army is the guardian of security and the guardian of national sovereignty. It must meet its responsibilities today, its historic responsibilities. The Army must defend the territory. If there is an invasion, the Army cannot accept it. It happens that the very forces, that are in the harbor, that said they would simply come as technical forces that would help with technical missions, have many heavy rifles, many important things, and very heavy weapons. The Army has realized that and has protested. But besides that, the Army must do its job. The people are expecting that, the nation is expecting that from the Army.

[Unidentified correspondent] Under this juncture marked by the arrival of these military men, what essential work do you think the Army could do?

[ALAH leader Renold Georges] Well, we are not ready for confrontation with these forces. I repeat: We are not ready to have a confrontation with these forces. As a military man [as heard], if I were a general, I would not expose my Army in front of such a war machine. However, we believe that there are peaceful actions that we can do. For example, tomorrow the entire population will go to the streets to demonstrate their discontent and indignation. I believe that many lavalas and National Front for Change and Democracy partisans will also be doing this job [as heard] tomorrow because I know Chavannes Jean-Baptiste [Papaye Congress National Peasants Movement leader and former member of the Pro- Aristide Presidential Commission], a native of Plateau Central—usually, people from Plateau Central are very nationalistic—I believe Chavannes will support us in this step and I call on him and and all peasants'

movements so they can remember what foreigners did to us in Marche a Terre, in Saut d'Eau, in the north, and especially in Plateau Central. [end recording]

ACP Demands Mission Deferment; FNCD Deputies at Risk

FL1210211693 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Deputies of the 45th legislature have asked the United Nations in a resolution to defer its decision to deploy a technical assistance mission to Haiti. Deputy Josue LaFrance stated that foreigners must be kicked out of the country and that National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD] deputies are victims of acts of violence. The following is a report by Daly Valet.

[Begin recording, in Creole] While the Revolutionary Front for Haitian Advancement and Progress [FRAPH] partisans were demonstrating at the National Port Authority, many Alliance for Parliamentary Cohesion [ACP] deputies also expressed displeasure with the arrival of a UN mission in Haiti. These deputies, who say they are nationalists, ask the foreign military, on behalf of the defense of the nation's sovereignty, to return to their countries and let Haitians solve their own problems. Gabriel Sanon, an ACP hardliner, says they will keep resisting to the end. Yes to cooperation and no to occupation is the slogan of the deputies close to the military. [passage omitted]

The protests of the ACP are not limited to statements alone: On Monday, 11 October, they adopted a resolution condemning the arrival of the UN mission to Haiti. After several pages of preamble, the deputies who signed this resolution asked the United Nations to defer entry of the mission, while anticipating the establishment of a proper legal basis for this purpose. [passage omitted]

While deputies close to the Haitian Army are denouncing the entry of the mission, the FNCD parliamentarians are having trouble moving around freely in the capital. They undergo pressures and attacks. On 11 October, while FRAPH was demonstrating in front of the APN building, FNCD Deputy Fritz Robert Saint-Paul, first secretary of the chamber office, was attacked by several armed civilians. A person who accompanied the deputy was hit. According to the deputy, this attack occurred in the presence of a military vehicle. Deputy Fritz Robert Saint-Paul considers the Haitian Army and the police responsible for all acts of violence being committed in Haiti.

Concerning the entry of the UN mission to Haiti, the Union of the Parliamentarians of the South has sent a letter to the president of the chamber asking him to invite Malval to answer questions regarding the arrival of this mission. A session on the presence of the UN Mission in Haiti is scheduled for 13 October. Daly Valet for Signal FM. [end recording]

Downtown Shops Closed; Group Convenes Demonstration

FL1210151993 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1400 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Report by Rothschild Francois—live]

[Text] [Announcer] Activities are at a standstill in the downtown area. Both large and small businesses are not working. Traffic is basically nonexistent. Rothschild Francois reports live:

[Begin relay] Good morning to Radio Metropole listeners. We are right now around the National Harbor Authorities [APN] where demonstrators are starting to gather. A demonstration has been convened by the 11 October 1993 Revolutionary Council. This is a new organization formed by several organizations and Haitian citizens who are saying no to any foreign military intervention in Haiti.

What can be pointed out is that the U.S. ship is still in the same place. It is near the Port-au-Prince Harbor but it still cannot enter.

It should also be pointed out that the downtown business center is right now closed. All the stores are closed. There is no activity even in the public market. The markets are closed. This is the situation right now in the downtown area. I must say that traffic is jammed in the La Saline area. There is a prohibitive road sign placed by the Traffic Control Service which prevents people from using La Saline Boulevard.

Let me recall that the demonstrators have started to arrive around the APN. There are also many curious people who are waiting for the demonstration that should start in a short while. This is Mobile 20 for Radio Metropole. [end relay]

Early this morning, several incidents were reported on the Carrefour Road and on Grand Rue, where groups of armed men forced drivers in private vehicles to return home. Several pedestrians reportedly were intimidated and threatened.

Cedras Says He Will Respect Retirement Commitment

FL1210220693 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1900 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] A demonstration of joy was held this afternoon at the Port-au-Prince port. The demonstrators who gathered at the capital's wharf today fired several shots as an expression of joy after the U.S. ship moved away.

According to Senator Bob Graham, a Florida Democrat, who held a news conference following a 24-hour visit to Haiti, Gen. Raoul Cedras today asserted in Port-au-Prince that he would respect his commitment to take

an early retirement. Gen. Cedras' retirement must precede the return to Haiti on 30 October of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, according to the terms of the Governors Island accord.

Armed Civilians Celebrate Ship Departure

PA1210221393 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2040 GMT 12 Oct 93

[By Herold Jean-Francois]

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 12 Oct (EFE)—Armed civilians today took to the streets of a virtually paralyzed Port-au-Prince to celebrate the departure of the U.S. ship Harlan County, which did not dock due to a lack of security in Haiti.

"For the victory against foreigners," shouted demonstrators of the extreme right-wing group "Front for Haitian Advancement and Progress," who gathered this morning in front of the capital's dock to temporarily stop foreign diplomats and UN and OAS Special Envoy Dante Caputo.

The demonstrators, who oppose the return of constitutional President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, proclaimed their victory by firing several shots in the air.

According to reports from Washington, the White House has temporarily suspended technical aid to Haiti and is preparing to impose sanctions.

Prime Minister Robert Malval's administration is meeting this afternoon to discuss the new crisis.

Malval had previously met with foreign diplomats and with U.S. Embassy Charge d'Affaires (Vickie Huddelston).

(Huddelston) in turn met at noon today with Army Chief Raoul Cedras, who headed a coup against President Aristide on 30 September 1991.

Cedras issued a declaration on Monday assuring the people that the military would support efforts to restore calm in the country.

Nevertheless, today—as on Monday—the military failed to arrive at the sites where the incidents occurred and in which at least two persons were reportedly killed.

The Army high command also remained silent about the UN Security Council's threat concerning the resumption of commercial sanctions.

Early today dozens of armed civilians pressured drivers, pedestrians, and students to return to their homes.

"The 11 October Revolutionary Committee," a political group created following Monday's events in rejection of the foiled landing of 200 U.S. soldiers aboard the Harlan County, organized a demonstration in front of the Port-au-Prince wharf.

"The 11 October Revolutionary Movement" asked parents to keep their children at home in solidarity with the movement.

Automobile traffic was lighter than usual as of noon today. Nevertheless, long lines formed at the gas stations, like the days when rationing was necessary due to the commercial embargo.

Stores in downtown Port-au-Prince remained closed.

Deputies' Resolution to United Nations Outlined

FL1210225393 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] On 8 October, a group of deputies took the initiative to vote on a resolution demanding the immediate suspension of the activities of the UN Mission to Haiti. In the numbered preambles, the legislators mention violation of several points of the Governors Island Accord.

The 18 deputies also believe that the amnesty decree of President Aristide does not answer the expectations of the concerned parties because it does not respect legal proscriptions and does not provide sufficient guarantees.

Furthermore, the deputies consider the demands of the OAS/UN special envoy to establish a UN military base in Haiti a violation of the Haitian Constitution. In two articles of the resolution, the 18 deputies demand an immediate deferment of all landing procedures and of deployment of a multinational force to the territory of the Republic of Haiti under any pretext until the required judicial means intervene as stated in the provisions of Haitian internal laws. The resolution was dispatched from the Chamber office to the UN Security Council and the OAS secretary general.

PANPRA Proposes Crisis Solutions to Government

FL1210231693 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] The National Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti, PANPRA, expresses concern regarding the worsening of the political crisis. PANPRA asserts it regrets that the government has not searched among the principal state powers, keepers of national sovereignty, for a consensus on the terms of reference defining the status of UN Mission to Haiti [MINUHA] members. The party says it understands the demands of the senators elected on 18 January and recognizes that the New York pact was not respected with regard to them by the opposing party. PANPRA asks the prime minister and his government to put into concrete form, as soon as possible, the proposal by the president of the Chamber of Deputies for a meeting among the state main powers—the executive, legislative, judicial, and military, with the following agenda:

To reach agreement on the Governors Island Accord and the New York Pact; to jointly review, in compliance with the Constitution, the terms of reference regarding the status of the members of MINUHA; to draw a compromise on the conflict between the executive and judicial powers regarding the president of the Court of Cassation; to remove the obstacles involved in the extraordinary session of the Lower Chamber; to take all measures to achieve political truce and social appeasement; to study the possibility of extending the government to other political sectors in order to form a real government of concord as stipulated by the New York Pact, and to proceed with the creation of a reconciliation commission.

PANPRA also reiterated its call for a national conference that brings together all political, economic, social, and military sectors with a view toward determining the greatest challenges that Haitian society is facing, and through dialogue and consultation, to find the solutions to them. Finally, PANPRA condemns violence in all its forms, and believes that the country's solutions can be found only through a firm will in using dialogue and consultation.

Ω Swedish Investment Opportunities Cited

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[Editorial Report] In remarks reported by the 18 September Stockholm daily SVENSKA DAGBLADET, Goran Rannefors, head of the Swedish Export Council in North America, expressed optimism about the opportunities for Swedish firms under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Rannefors is concerned about the decrease in Swedish exports to North America in recent years, but hopes that a more favorable exchange rate and reduced trade barriers can reverse this trend. He also believes that NAFTA will be an "economic reality" even if it is not passed, and calls on Swedish exporters to adapt their export strategies accordingly. With reduced tariffs, he points out, it will be possible to produce in one country and sell in the other two. At present there are 700-800 Swedish subsidiaries in the United States, 150 in Canada, and only around 30 in Mexico, a mix that he believes will change. He particularly sees possibilities in Mexico for producers of automobile components and, with increased investments in cleaning up the U.S.-Mexican border, environmental technologies. Rannefors observed that "the automobile industry in Mexico will grow dramatically, and this should create very good opportunities for Swedish subcontractors."

Havana Commentary Rejects U.S. 'Meddling' in Mexican Affairs

PA1210223793 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Oct 93

["Our America" commentary by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] While the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA] is [words indistinct] at the U.S. Congress and has not yet been approved, attention is drawn to the pressures certain congressmen are trying to exert on Mexico to force that country to make concessions through the agreement. To this end, during recent elections in certain Mexican states, U.S. congressmen said it was necessary to send foreign observers to the elections, thus implicitly expressing doubts regarding the honesty of the elections.

Mexican Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana reiterated his country's rejection of foreign observers at elections at any level in Mexico. The ranking official thus stated his Foreign Secretariat's position and explained that Mexican legislation does not authorize the presence of foreign observers at federal, state, or municipal elections. Political and electoral processes, Solana added, are the sole and exclusive responsibility of the Mexican people.

It is not the first time friction emerges between the United States and Mexico. It should also be said that Solana's remarks were prompted by articles that appeared in the U.S. news media, which underscored certain congressmen's efforts to link NAFTA's confirmation process to Mexican domestic affairs.

This incident comes at a time of heightened tension on the Mexican-U.S. border. A few days ago Washington decided to virtually close its border with Mexico to prevent the entry of illegal aliens into U.S. territory and to thus curb, according to an official report, the entry of criminals and drug traffickers.

One's attention is drawn to the fact that the closing of the border, for which the United States has employed almost 500 policemen and equipped them with vehicles and helicopters, and U.S. pressures concerning the elections, have come at a time when approval of NAFTA is under discussion. It should be explained that the United States has always encouraged Latin American immigration and has used Mexican manpower very advantageously.

Meanwhile, certain Mexican news media and politicians have warned that the growing crime rate in the United States is only a pretext to increase tensions, because crimes are perpetrated with or without border operations.

One need not be very shrewd to see that certain U.S. sectors are attempting to create an anti-Mexican climate to prompt rejection of NAFTA, which the U.S. Congress must approve. Furthermore, delicate issues such as their insistence on sending foreign observers to the elections, clearly constitute meddling in the affairs of another state and, of course, they directly affect Mexico's national sovereignty.

To exert this type of pressure on Mexico is, besides being dishonest, a means of intensifying tensions at a very delicate political time for both countries.

Salinas, U.S. Attorney General Discuss Crime, Drugs

PA1210162793 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Report from the "Good Morning From Mexico" newscast]

[Text] President Salinas has received U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno at the official residence of Los Pinos. There, the U.S. official conveyed greetings from President Bill Clinton. Following a friendly conversation, Salinas and Reno discussed issues concerning the bilateral agenda.

The U.S. attorney general also met with Mexican Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana Morales. During the meeting, they discussed the situation along the border where the so-called blockade operation against illegal Mexican immigrants was carried out. The two officials agreed to promote, as soon as possible, a meeting of the binational commission to seek satisfactory solutions to this problem.

Here is a report on Reno's activities yesterday:

[Unidentified reporter] The governments of Mexico and the United States agreed on the need to work jointly in the struggle against drug trafficking. In a joint declaration, the attorneys general of the two nations stressed that the approval of the North American Free Trade Treaty [NAFTA] will result in a closer and more intense cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking and organized crime.

[Begin Mexican Attorney General Jorge Carpizo McGregor recording] The strengthening of the climate of respect and joint responsibility that NAFTA will bring about will permit an increase in Mexican and U.S. capabilities in fighting drug trafficking and other crimes such as organized crime, money laundering, and gunrunning. [end recording]

Carpizo and Reno also met with President Carlos Salinas at the official residence of Los Pinos. In a joint communique issued at the end of the meeting, the two attorneys general reaffirmed their decision to maintain cooperation in the struggle against drug trafficking, respecting the sovereignty of the two countries and human rights, as well as explicitly banning cross-border kidnappings.

[Begin Carpizo McGregor recording] Attorney General Reno and yours truly discussed future measures to begin actions that will give special priority to the dismantling of criminal organizations. [end recording]

Carpizo McGregor informed his U.S. counterpart about the Mexican Government's decision to create a unit that will guarantee and speed up the preceedings of Mexican courts in penal cases of conationals who are in Mexico and have commited crimes abroad. For her part, Reno noted that the U.S. Justice Department is in the process of appointing a legal attache to the U.S. Embassy in Mexico to promote legal cooperation.

[Begin Reno recording] I think it is necessary for us to keep communicating and working together in the struggle against drug trafficking and crime, as well as in resolving the mutual problems of our contries. [end recording]

During the next few weeks, the two nations will work together in a project to transfer to our country Mexicans who are in U.S. jails. Although there were no discussions on specific topics concerning immigration issues, Carpizo McGregor and Reno expressed a willingness to increase the dialogue to prevent and resolve border problems. They agreed to give instructions to their delegates on the border commission to promote cooperation and to act accordingly.

President Salinas Leaves for Summit in Port-of-Spain

PA1310043993 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1709 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Mexico City, 12 Oct (NOTIMEX)—Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari left today for Trinidad and Tobago, the first leg of a five-day tour that includes Chile. His visit is intended to promote cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Salinas de Gortari will go to the capital city Port-of-Spain to participate in the first summit meeting of the Group of Three—Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela—with 13 countries of the Caribbean community and Suriname.

When the Port-of-Spain meeting concludes, the Mexican president will make an official visit to Santiago, Chile on Wednesday and will attend the seventh meeting of presidents of the 13 nations of the Rio Group.

Government Creates National Migration Institute

PA1110162793 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 11 Oct 93

[From the "Good Morning From Mexico" program]

[Text] Government Secretary Jose Patrocinio Gonzalez Blanco-Garrido has announced the creation of the National Migration Institute [Instituto Nacional de la Migracion—INM]. The institute's primary objective will be to strengthen and expand the functions of the General Directorate of Migration Services.

In a communique, Gonzalez explained that the INM will be technically unconfined [desconcentrado] and dependent on the Government Secretariat.

The institute will plan, supervise, and evaluate migration matters. It will coordinate its work with other agencies in

charge of resolving problems stemming from migration, which has economic, social, and, occasionally political motives.

Social Security Workers Demand Wage Improvements

PA0910200793 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Report by Hector Guerrero; from the "Early News" newscast]

[Text] This Wednesday [6 October], Mexico City was once more the scene of several protest marches that blocked traffic.

Amid traffic chaos that lasted more than three hours and calls to protect their labor accomplishments and wage improvement demand, at least 5,000 Mexican Social Security Institute workers staged a protest march along Avenida Reforma, exactly in front of this institution's headquarters.

Social Security union leaders reiterated that solutions to the severe crisis taking place and any attempt to modernize the institution are best carried out by improving wages and labor conditions.

The protest march was supported by Campeche, Cuahuila, Tamaulipas, Oaxaca, Tlaxcala, Veracruz, Morelos, and Sonora workers who organized protest marches in their respective cities demanding improvements in their collective bargaining contracts.

Meanwhile, in Mexico City, members of the National Citizens Organization Movement maintained a 48-hour standing watch, blocking traffic along Avenida (Taxquena), as well as Eje 2 and 3 East, protesting land appropriation in (San Francisco Cuzcuacan).

Slovak Foreign Affairs Minister Ends Visit

PA0810144193 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0051 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Mexico City, 6 Oct (NOTIMEX)—Jozef Moravcik, the foreign affairs minister of the Republic of Slovakia, concluded his official visit to Mexico today. During his visit he met with President Carlos Salinas de Gortari and Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana Morales.

In a communique, the Mexican Foreign Secretariat reported that Moravcik gave Salinas de Gortari a message from Slovak President Michal Kovac and broached bilateral relations topics with Solana Morales. The Slovak foreign minister studied, together with his Mexican colleague, the signing of new agreements that will allow them to update the cooperation between Mexico and that country, which—the same as the Czech Republic—arose as an independent sate when Czechoslovakia was dissolved in January 1993.

Moravcik also met with Foreign Commerce Bank officials to identify sectors in which commercial trade can be developed and to promote cooperation between both countries' financial institutions.

Armed Forces Begin 'Extensive' Counternarcotics Operation

PA0810142993 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2128 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Mexico City, 6 Oct (NOTIMEX)—The National Defense Secretariat reported that the Mexican Armed Forces today started an extensive operation against drug trafficking activities for which it has mobilized almost 19,000 soldiers. The secretariat indicated the Army and Armed Forces decided to carry out National Operation III-93 requiring troops be moved to areas where there is a higher incidence of planting, reaping, and trafficking drugs.

The operation, which is to conclude on 2 November, includes the participation of 13,626 soldiers, 17 helicopters, 415 vehicles, 438 radio stations, and 405 first aid kits [as received], and other materiel, the National Defense Secretariat communique stated. In addition to the mentioned personnel, there are 3,307 members ascribed to the Navy's "Canador Plan" and 1,919 to the "Marte Task Force," who are also in a permanent campaign against drugs. Thus, there is a total of 18,852 men engaged in actions to counter drugs.

The secretariat added that Army troops, in coordination with the Attorney General's Office, have confiscated more than 2 tons of cocaine in three operations carried out between 23 September and 3 October. The drug seizures took place in the southeastern States of Chiapas and Campeche, it reported. The communique details that 727.2 kg of cocaine were seized at the Conquista Campesina Ejido, Campeche, on 23 September, and 576.5 kg of cocaine were seized in Santa Clara lagoon, Chiapas, between 28 and 29 September. The previous Sunday, Army soldiers seized 712 kg of cocaine in the Ocosingo, Chiapas region.

El Salvador

Weapons Discovered in Usulutan Belong to FMLN

PA1210140993 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 8 Oct 93 p 21

[Text] Dr. Douglas Santamaria, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front's [FMLN] representative on the Subcommission on Arms Verification of Copaz [National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace], said yesterday that the weapons found last week in Usulutan belong to the FMLN.

According to Santamaria, the weapons are part of some "underground hideouts" that could not be located because the fighters who built them are dead, missing, or are no longer FMLN members. He added that, as former battle zones are resettled by their previous residents, weapons scattered throughout national territory will be discovered. The resettlers are the ones who will find these kinds of caches.

Dr. Santamaria underscored that what worries the FMLN is what will be done with these weapons, because they should be destroyed.

PNC [National Civilian Police] Director Jose Maria Monterrey confirmed that President Alfredo Cristiani has asked United Nations not to stop the process of collecting and destroying FMLN weapons.

Meanwhile, Jose Reynaldo Ayala, member of the Subcommission on Arms Verification of Copaz, said the law stipulates that all seized weapons must go to Armed Forces warehouses and must be controlled by the judge who will handle the case.

These statements were released yesterday, as the Subcommission on Arms Verification of Copaz and Onusal [UN Observers for El Salvador] visited PNC headquarters in San Salvador to verify and inspect the weapons found last week by the PNC in Usulutan Department.

Cristiani Says Armed Forces To Receive Weapons Caches

PA1210141793 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 12 Oct 93

[From the "Up to Date" newscast]

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani stated today that the arms caches found by the National Civilian Police [PNC] will pass into the inventory of the Armed Forces. In the past few days the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] had asked the PNC and Onusal [UN Observers for El Salvador] that the arms be destroyed. Today, Monday, President Cristiani, on reiterating that the arms caches will be treated as a purely criminal matter, said they will be turned over to the Armed Forces.

[Begin Cristiani recording] Since they are used by the Armed Forces, they will become part of the Armed Forces. We have explained that economically, if it involves equipment that is similar or equivalent to that used by the Armed Forces, it is logical that we should use it. Why should have to spend more? The rest will be inventoried in an arsenal as part of the equipment seized, in this case from the FMLN. [end recording]

The FMLN had charged that some Armed Forces members are hiding weapons seized during the conflict to discredit the FMLN. Cristiani stated, however, that the government has never had this intention.

[Begin Cristiani recording] We find it very ridiculous to hear it said that we are going to start a campaign of planting arms caches. The FMLN has brought discredit upon itself. The government does not have to do anything, because it is obvious in broad daylight that the FMLN has not been honest in turning over and destroying the weapons. [end recording]

Guatemala

Deputies File Amparo Writs To Halt Referendum

PA1310044393 Paris AFP in Spanish 0410 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 12 Oct (AFP)—Several legislators on Tuesday filed two amparo writs against Guatemala's Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) for calling a referendum, official sources reported.

The writs, the contents of which have yet to be revealed to the media, state to the Supreme Court of Justice that the Executive Branch is violating the constitutional principle of independent state branches because the referendum is intended to garner moral support so President Ramiro de Leon Carpio can request the Congress deputies' and Supreme Court of Justice magistrates' resignation.

The deputies challenging the referendum are independents Jorge Garcia Salas, Miguel Angel Montepeque, and Jose Eduardo Matute, who filed one of the writs, and Rafael Olivero of the Solidarity Action Movement (MAS), who filed the other.

The Supreme Court of Justice has 48 hours to decide whether to grant the requests, which would bring a halt to the entire process for the referendum, which is scheduled for Sunday, 28 November.

In a statement to the media, Deputy Garcia Salas said the writ is based on alleged violations of legislative members' rights by the Executive Branch, which requested the referendum.

URNG Critical of De Leon's Actions as President

PA1210232793 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1419 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Geneva, 12 Oct (EFE)—According to the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG), Guatemalan President Ramiro De Leon Carpio is dashing the hopes raised when he assumed office because his actions as president contradict his background as the human rights ombudsman.

URNG Commander Rodrigo Asturias, who is visiting several European countries, including Switzerland, Germany, and the Low Countries, to request support for the resumption of the peace negotiations, expressed his concern over the intensification of violence in Guatemala to the directors of the UN Human Rights Center.

"Ramiro De Leon's government has maintained the repressive and oppressive organizations, and what is even worse, we are at the onset of a wave of terror based on anonymous threats against the people to check the flow of popular proposals," Asturias told EFE today.

The commander regretted the rejection of every proposal to meet with the government, either publicly formulated by the URNG or through the good offices of international figures, "due to which there has been no joint meeting since 8 May, when one was held with the previous government."

Asturias said that the government peace proposal, which was unilaterally presented by the Guatemalan Government at the UN General Assembly in New York and on 4 October in Guatemala, "is not viable in the manner in which it has been formulated and cannot serve as a basis to reopen the negotiations."

"Not only that, but the government proposal hinders the reopening of the negotiations because it abolishes the agreement on human rights, one of the key issues in the negotiations, and turns the proposal into a unilateral declaration. It also eliminates all of the sociopolitical and economic content," he added.

According to the leader of Guatemala's foremost guerrilla organization, "it is impossible to conduct negotiations based solely on that proposal, and our position is shared by Guatemala's entire civilian sector."

The URNG feels that although President De Leon Carpio had said he would listen to the views of civilian society, "in the new proposal he has further hardened the positions criticized by civilians."

According to the URNG, another negative aspect of the new government proposal is that it limits the participation of the peace process' Group of Friendly Countries—Venezuela, Mexico, Spain, Colombia, Norway, and United States—confining them to such issues as the cease-fire and demilitarization and preventing them from expressing support for the entire peace plan.

"It is worrisome that the government has not created a framework for negotiation and is only hindering the search for a political solution. We are aware of the situation and willing to seek a political solution by resuming the negotiations," he added.

Asturias emphasized that the URNG has accepted mediator Monsignor Quesada Toruno's proposal as a foundation for resuming the negotiations. "The proposal was prepared in secret" and includes certain elements from the initial government proposal in addition to articulating civilian society's views.

"Although the government was the first to disclose the proposal to the public, it later disregarded it and presented a new one," he said.

The commander, son of Nobel literature prize winner Miguel Angel Asturias, said the so-called congressional "purge," which is "necessary for Guatemalan society and for the current political situation," will accentuate the institutional crisis and will not resolve the basic problems.

"The purge should begin with the executive himself and include the Army, because it makes no sense to implement it only in Congress and the Supreme Court of Justice. Furthermore, the necessary constitutional reforms should be made to allow early elections," Asturias concluded.

Army To Urge Rebels To Accept Peace Plan

PA1210155093 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 7 Oct 93 p 6

[Report by Carlos Garcia Urrea]

[Text] Guatemala, 7 October—Military spokesperson Edith Vargas de Marroquin has reported that the Army will call on the guerrilla fighters in the country to accept President Ramiro de Leon Carpio's peace proposal. Marroquin made the announcement during a brief meeting with journalists in the press room of the Army's Information and Press Department.

Edith Vargas de Marroquin said that the Army believes the proposal is positive and very important for consolidating lasting peace in the country. The Army also requested that the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) show its willingness to attain peace by accepting the government's plan and by taking definitive action.

She added that the Army is encouraging rebel fighters in the country, who have to endure cold, persecution, hunger, and discomfort, to accept the plan even if it is not accepted by the commanders of the "terrorist factions" (URNG) in Mexico, who are enjoying the comfort of five-star hotels, good food, and fine service.

In her opinion this is a wonderful opportunity to find reconciliation and to attain the peace of which all Guatemalans dream. Everything lies in starting negotiations.

When asked if this meant that the Army would only recognize the URNG fighters in Guatemala and not their commanders in Mexico, the Army spokesperson said yes.

Marroquin underscored that the peace proposal is a political effort. If the rebels in the country, however, decide to accept it, the Army would recognize them as the true players on behalf of the URNG.

The Army has not yet advised the government of its decision, the spokesperson said, adding that she had taken advantage of the reporters' presence to send a message to the rebels operating inside the country. Regarding the protection the rebels could be offered during the negotiations process, Edith Vargas de Marroquin said the Army would act accordingly. Nevertheless, this is an issue that must be examined and that will require government approval. She did say, however, that immediate action will be taken.

The military spokesperson said the peace plan is the best chance the government and the URNG have. She said that it is a political opportunity that must be utilized to find reconciliation and to attain peace.

In the end, she reaffirmed that if the clandestine commanders, leaders, or factions abroad refuse to accept this opportunity, the Army will invite the fighters within the country to accept and support the efforts, which will prepare the way for negotiations with them when the time comes.

Honduras

Callejas Discusses Health Workers Strike

PA1210123893 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Interview with President Rafael Callejas by Francisco Valeriano; place and date not given; from the "The Morning Paper" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Valeriano] President Callejas, it is said that you are being very prudent regarding the problem with the doctors employed by the Public Health Ministry. Nevertheless, you have made some proposals for resolving the situation. Will you comment on this?

[Callejas] In view of the characteristics of the problem, particularly in terms of the suspension of medical services for the people—but certainly not emergency services, which are still being provided—the government has decided to decree a state of emergency in the field of public health. This will be handled by the health minister.

[Valeriano] President Callejas, is there a possibility of new negotiations, as the health minister has said?

[Callejas] We have the best of intentions. I reiterate: The problem stems from the fact that we have no legal mechanisms for earmarking resources up to the 1995 fiscal year. Apparently, this has not convinced the members of the Medical Association, and, therefore, they are continuing to suspend activities. A dialogue is always welcome, and let us hope that within the legal and economic framework we can find alternatives that will give us the results we are hoping for—namely, that the Medical Association, and particularly the doctors, resumes its work, which is what the Honduran people want.

[Valeriano] Nevertheless, the Medical Association has pointed out it wants to talk to you. Might you meet with its representatives?

[Callejas] The main point is that to resolve this regrettable situation, it is necessary that the legal mechanism be resolved, as well as to determine whether the government can allocate funds for budgets that are not included in its presidential term until 1995. The budget is an annual tool. Consequently, the commitments must be made accordingly, unless there is a law issued by the Congress of the Republic that establishes what is to be done in a reasonable amount of time.

In fact, there already is a statute for the employed doctors, with which the government has complied. This statute establishes that there will be an automatic increase of a certain percentage every so many years. This leads us to a conflict inasmuch as the Medical Association wants the government to commit itself to salary increases up until 1995. Frankly speaking, we cannot honor that request.

From this point of view, should there be an opening, then the commission is willing to continue holding a dialogue. This is the responsibility of the Honduran Government—that is, to hold dialogue and reach agreements to find solutions. However, if this is not achieved, this is why we have issued the law.... [pauses] the executive decision that entails a state of emergency to give the health minister the administrative and political instruments.... [pauses] in other words, an administrative policy that will result in providing medical care to Honduran citizens through the state.

[Valeriano] Does the government remain firm in its stand of a 20-25 percent increase?

[Callejas] We are debating a legal term. The government has already issued a proposal on what the government can give, within its capacity, which is a little over 20 percent.

[Valeriano] If the government is speaking of hiring new doctors, could this happen today?

[Callejas] I would prefer that we not speculate on this. This is up to the health minister, and we feel that if any new doctors are hired, they will be Honduran doctors.

[Valeriano] Is there any possibility of a meeting between the Medical Association and you?

[Callejas] Right now, I feel that the Health Ministry is working on a solution by attempting to establish legal, and not political, instruments. Therefore, a meeting with me would entail, first of all, discussing that element of a debate which is leading to the contradiction.

The government is willing to give doctors a wage increase according to its capabilities, but not for fiscal periods beyond the current government's term.

[Valeriano] President Callejas also ruled out the possibility that presidential candidates could contribute to resolving the problem, because they do not have administrative authority.

[Callejas] Candidates have no administrative authority to make legal decisions until they become president of the Republic. Therefore, they cannot commit themselves.

[Valeriano] Will there be any dismissals?

[Callejas] That decision will be made by the public health minister.

[Valeriano] In other words, the Public Health Ministry has absolute responsibility for and control over the situation?

[Callejas] As always, each minister is responsible for defining the policy in the area of his responsibility.

[Valeriano] The president of the doctors association has said she is willing to resign.

[Callejas] We are not involved in any confrontation with the president of the doctors association. We respect her as a professional, and we believe she is capable of making her own decisions on an individual basis. Nevertheless, we are holding talks with the doctors association. If she decides to resign, it is her decision.

[Valeriano] Are there any deadlines?

[Callejas] Once a state of emergency is declared in the health sector, the health minister must make appropriate decisions in order to provide health services.

[Valeriano] When will the decree issued last night be strictly implemented?

[Callejas] Whenever the health minister decides.

[Valeriano] How do you view the situation? Do you think it will be difficult to find a solution because of the doctors association's position?

[Callejas] Unless they set aside economic and labor aspects to discuss legal aspects, it will be very difficult to find a solution, because they do not want to accept the reality that my government cannot commit itself for the 1995 budget.

[Valeriano] What is your realistic evaluation of the situation, and what do you think can be done to resolve the problem?

[Callejas] I hope a solution can be found. I am at the end of my presidential term. I would not like to leave in the middle of a strike. It would not be realistic. At the same time, however, I feel that some sectors—particularly under the current circumstances—are taking advantage of the situation in which the president is ending his term and elections are approaching to try to establish pressure. They assume that because there is an electoral period or because the government is ending its term, it will change its rules in public administration. I am not planning to do this. I will maintain standards based on the law.

Health Minister May Contract Foreign Doctors

PA1210160193 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 8 Oct 93 p 4

[Report by Maria Edith Diaz]

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Health Minister Ramon Pereira said yesterday that in due time Guatemalan, Nicaraguan, and Panamanian doctors will be contracted to replace the Honduran doctors who have decided to continue the strike.

The doctors strike to demand a 55 percent salary increase entered its eighth day today without an agreement between the medical leaders and government authorities. Negotiations were broken off on 29 September when the government declared the strike illegal.

Pereira said the government spends 170,000 lempiras daily to pay the doctors, who will receive no further payments after the strike is declared illegal.

Pereira said: "We have started appointing people, not contracting them, to cover certain positions that are quite critical for the health sector, and we have sent labor inspectors to do what they must in accordance with the law. Sanctions will be imposed against anyone who refuses to work."

Pereira has contacted the region's health ministers, some of whom expressed solidarity and the resolve to send doctors Honduras may require whenever Pereira deems it necessary.

According to Pereira, in the case of doctors who are public officials, they must explain their situation: either they support the strike or they fulfill the duties they pledged under oath to fulfill.

Pereira said that the controversial article in the Medical Public Official Law is Article 60, which stipulates that "in the event of a nominal devaluation, the wage scale

will be revised and a total readjustment made." He noted, however, that the article does not state how or when this should be done.

Pereira said: "I have suggested that the Medical Association accept the increase that has been proposed, which is substantial and will cover this quarter and next year. Once this has been done, we should sit down and revise this article and regulate it."

Pereira added: We will subsequently establish a wage scale that will have to be discussed at the National Congress during the next term. In this way, he added, the problem will not reemerge every year and the quality of the petitioner's work would be considered, because there are people who currently only go to work to punch their time cards.

Pereira said: "With all due respect, although I have never been a deputy and do not have much political savvy, I know there has been negligence. The situation cannot be characterized otherwise, because the approval of this law, with total disregard for what it means to leave a gap like this in a law, is to sign a blank check."

Pereira said that Cesar Castellanos, former health minister and current coordinator of the National Party campaign, told him that his union's demands are very high. He also said that he does not understand why Castellanos has been characterized as the "father of the Medical Public Official Law," because he only led the movement while the law was approved by the National Congress.

Nicaragua

Presidential Decrees on Transportation, Tariffs

PA1210235893 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Decrees Nos. 41-93 and 42-93 issued by Nicaraguan President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro in Managua on 6 October; from the "This Morning" newscast—read by Francis Silva, press director of the Presidency]

[Text]

Decree No. 41-93:

Whereas, the president of the Republic of Nicaragua considers that:

1. The agreement signed between the government and the transportation subsector on 22 September 1993, must be implemented adequately to exonerate the transportation service in general from the payment of the IGV [General Value Tax].

2. It is convenient to reduce the costs of transportation to the benefit of the nation's production and business companies to encourage competition and increase their flow of working capital.

Therefore, using powers granted by the Constitution, the following decree to reform Decree 15-31, Law on the General Value Tax is issued.

Article 1. The fourth fraction of Article 14, Decree No. 15-31 Law on the General Value Tax and its reforms must be amended to read as follows:

Fourth. Land transportation in general.

Article 2. The current decree will take effect when disseminated through any of the mass media, without detriment to its subsequent publication in LA GACETA, official newspaper.

Issued in Managua at the Presidential Palace on 6 October 1993

[Signed] Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, president of the Republic of Nicaragua

Decree No. 42-93

Whereas, the president of the Republic of Nicaragua, in view of:

The agreement signed within framework of the Central American Group of Four, CA-4, and between the government and the Federations of Transportation of Cargo and Passengers, using the powers granted by the Constitution, issues the following decree on the elimination of tariffs:

Article 1: Eliminate the payment of tariffs in concept of visas and exit permits for vehicles leaving the country for transportation workers on their business trips abroad. These tariffs are outlined in Decrees Numbers 276 and 277, both dated 2 September 1987, called the Law on Tariffs, Immigrations, and Aliens and Law on Transit respectively, and their subsequent reforms.

Article 2: This decree will take effect when disseminated through the mass media, without detriment to its subsequent publication by LA GAZETA, the official newspaper.

Issued in Managua at the Presidential Palace on 6 October 1993

[Signed] Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, president of the Republic of Nicaragua

First Day of Transportation Strike Ends Without Incident

PA1310024493 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0145 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Managua, 12 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—The first day of the transportation strike in Nicaragua—the second strike in two months—ended without incident and with transportation sector leaders and government representatives initiating talks today.

The National Commission of Ground Transportation, the union heading the protest, called for a strike as of 0000 (0600 GMT) today to protest the government's lack of compliance with the agreements signed to end the past transportation strike, which turned violent and left two people dead and many injured.

Drivers parked approximately 30 buses and trucks in front of the Presidential House this morning to pressure the government into keeping all the agreements signed on 24 September. Not all Nicaraguan drivers supported the strike, and several buses and taxis continued to provide service at a national level. The drivers did not erect barricades as they did during the previous protest.

The transportation union leaders are demanding that the government "immediately" withdraw the permits for new routes that was recently given to the transportation operators.

Nicaraguan Transportation Minister Pablo Vigil confirmed that talks had begun to "find an agreement to end the strike" and insisted that the government "has complied" with most of the agreements signed in September, such as the revocation of the new taxes on vehicle ownership and a freeze on fuel prices until the end of the year.

A few minutes before the talks started at 1800 (0000 GMT on Wednesday,) representatives of both sides manifested their desire to reach a prompt solution to the conflict.

OAS Verification Commission Member Discusses Mediation

PA1210224593 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Interview with Dr. Sergio Caramagna, member of the CIAV-OAS, by Adelaida Moncada; place not given; from the "Five O'Clock Sharp" newscast—live]

[Text] [Moncada] In view of the war situation prevailing in the northern area of Nicaragua, we are in direct contact with Dr. Sergio Caramagna of the CIAV-OAS, the International Commission of Support and Verification-OAS. He is a member of the commission that is meeting right now with the 3-80 Northern Front. Go ahead, Dr. Caramagna.

[Caramagna] Good afternoon. CIAV-OAS is working within the framework of the Northern Mediating Commission in the conflict between the 3-80 Northern Front and the Government of Nicaragua in order to reach some solution, to provide some sort of an idea or proposal that will allow a peaceful solution to such a delicate situation. Some headlines in the media and some reports have caught our attention. I think these reports are exaggerated. It is very important that the media send a message, particularly to the peasants—the people most affect by this type of conflict—that will provide them with a more calm and realistic point of view of the situation in the north.

[Moncada] Dr. Caramagna, we would like to know something about the meeting with President Chamorro?

[Caramagna] We, the members of the Northern Mediating Commission, met today at the CIAV-OAS office to discuss the steps to follow. We had not planned to meet with the president, but we discussed the possibility of preparing a proposal in order to continue working on the impasse that was created last night at Quilali and create conditions for continuing with the dialogue.

[Moncada] What is the commission planning to do within the next few hours?

[Caramagna] The mediating commission is always willing to continue cooperating and make every effort. Nonetheless, in these cases, the two parties are the ones which make the work of this commission possible. Thus, we are waiting for the parties to analyze the proposals that have been prepared so they will reach some point of agreement and we can continue with the agreements.

[Moncada] Any achievements so far?

[Caramagna] Actually, the situation is very difficult. The parties have very opposing stands, and we feel that it was necessary to establish this impasse for several hours to help the parties to think it over and adopt new stands. I think any effort or pronouncement that is made to this effect is decisive, because the people in general—and particularly the peasant population in the north—have great expectations for a truly satisfactory and dignified solution.

I think we have heard in the media that the phantom of war is no longer a phantom but a reality, and this is worrisome. Those messages are having a strong impact on the peasants' peace of mind. We want to address all groups that have any possibility of providing a solution and send them a message of calm and tranquillity so that we will have the necessary atmosphere for work. The commission is very united in its efforts and willing to find a solution. It is in permanent contact with the government and the 3-80 Northern Front, hoping that the stands will come closer.

[Moncada] El Chacal [Jose Angel Talavera] announced that his people are combat ready. Is there really a threat?

[Caramagna] That is one of the most complex and serious problems that we have. The groups that form the 3-80 Northern Front are dispersed, and this complicates the situation very much. On the other hand, there are many soldiers in the area. Thus, the commission is not working under the best conditions.

We urge both parties to facilitate the conditions that will allow establishing a dialogue. As you probably know, the possibilities of reaching an agreement or a dialogue depend on the willingness to hold this dialogue. I think

that any efforts that are made to prevent the confrontation are valid. That is what we are working on at this time.

[Moncada] Thank you, Dr. Caramagna, for your information.

UNO, FSLN Reject Trilateral Dialogue With Government

PA1310034493 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1030 GMT 12 Oct 93

[From "The Awakening" newscast]

[Text] The National Opposition Union [UNO] and the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] have rejected an invitation from President Chamorro to meet today. UNO National Coordinator Duilio Baltodano said that his organization will not attend the meeting because it believes that economic issues should be handled in a bilateral dialogue between UNO and the government, not in a trilateral one as requested by the executive.

The FSLN said the president's invitation was not serious because she wants UNO and the Sandinists to change the economic plan and propose members for the new economic team. At a news conference, Daniel Ortega said with a laugh that if that is the case, President Chamorro had better turn the government over to the FSLN.

* H. Ortega on Retirement, U.S. Relations

93CA0212A San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 12 Sep 93 pp 4a-5a

[Interview with Armed Forces Chief Humberto Ortega by Edgar Fonseca in Managua on 9 September; first 15 paragraphs are LA NACION introduction]

[Text] Managua. General Humberto Ortega, head of the EPS [Sandinist People's Army] of Nicaragua dumped cold water on President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro's attempt to end his military leadership in the coming year, saying that he thinks he will remain in his post until 1996.

During an interview with LA NACION on Thursday, Ortega emphasized that neither he nor Sandinism will let him be removed from his post "humiliated."

"If I leave humiliated, if I give in to pressure, a tremendous lack of security may arise here; this might create a terrible thirst for vengeance on the part of the Sandinists, who would feel humiliated. A very tense situation is being created here," said Ortega Saavedra.

His announcement that through a legal reform he will probably remain in his post for two more years adds a further element of unrest to the most recent crisis shaking Nicaragua after President Chamorro on 2 September expressed a desire to replace the military leader. When asked about the possibility that Ortega may extend his tenure, Antonio Lacayo, minister of the presidency and Mrs. Chamorro's son-in-law, said that—for now—there has been no reversal of the deadline set for the coming year.

"As things now stand, there is no possibility that a law will be passed that would alter or go against what she (Chamorro) believes is best for the nation on this issue," said Lacayo, described as the power behind the presidency, and whose removal is a source of controversy in Managua and in parts of the U.S. Congress.

The incident on 2 September, Armed Forces Day, when Mrs. Chamorro, Humberto Ortega, and former President Daniel Ortega had an argument; the collapse of Nicaraguan political talks, and the arrival of John Maisto, the new U.S. ambassador to Nicaragua, are the hot topics of discussion here.

Ortega Saavedra spoke with LA NACION on these and other issues for two hours on Thursday in his heavily protected office in El Chipote, Tiscapa Hill (behind the Intercontinental Hotel), where former Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza held power until he was ousted in July 1979.

Ortega took possession of this bunker at that time. It is where he handles public issues, though he also has offices on the Masaya Road.

Dressed in his uniform green shirt ornamented with gold EPS insignia, dark green pants with black trim, a four-star general's bars on his shoulders, black shoes, and wearing thick lenses with gilded frames, Ortega talked about a number of issues.

He seemed hopeful that relations with the United States will improve.

He felt that the crisis in his country is economic and social in nature and criticized the lack of international financial support.

He did not support attempts to move the elections forward, which has been advocated in recent months.

He considered relations with Costa Rica respectful and fraternal, especially those with Security Minister Luis Fishman.

Excerpts of the interview with Ortega follow.

It Is not I

[Fonseca] It is frequently repeated that your presence as head of the Nicaraguan Armed Forces has brought together both Democrats and Republicans in the U.S. Congress to block aid to Nicaragua....

[Ortega] The only thing that really brings together Republicans and Democrats in Congress on the Helms Amendment (proposal to freeze funds for Nicaragua) is not whether or not there are Sandinists in Nicaragua, but the profoundly antiterrorist feeling that exists in today's

world, which we feel as well. This amendment says that (President) Clinton has to certify whether the government of Nicaragua is involved in terrorism. It does not say that aid should be frozen because the army is Sandinist in origin. It does not say aid should be frozen because Humberto Ortega exists.

[Fonseca] You are sidestepping the question, but obviously your presence does generate some problems, and now a deadline has been set for your departure....

[Ortega] The problem here is not Humberto Ortega-Violeta Chamorro. It would be very superficial to see things that way. There is a deeper problem that has existed ever since the change (the Sandinist victory). This is a process that led to a war, to a fairly radical regime—the Sandinist regime—and that still moved toward a mixed economy and political pluralism and allowed elections to be held. Right now there is a segment of the population here that does not admit that there was a change, and that changes must continue to be improved. We cannot turn history back to before 1979, nor can we return to the days before 1990 (the victory of Violeta Chamorro), as the left would like to do. We have to take the best of the past so we can achieve a more secure future.

[Fonseca] When the president tells Humberto that the time has come for him to go, what sectors is she obeying?

[Ortega] Those who do not want my presence at the head of the Army do so not because they do not like Humberto Ortega, but because what they want, no matter how I leave the Army, is to begin a complete process to dismantle the EPS little by little. The conservative pressure, both inside and outside Nicaragua, is trying to get rid of the entire general staff. That is not viable.

The 1994 Deadline

[Fonseca] Are you going to comply with the deadline of 1994 that has been set for you?

[Ortega] Let us understand that the important thing is not the individual but the institution. I am not responding for myself, as I can retire at any time, but because of how the military institution is going to feel if its top leader leaves as the result of a violation of the Constitution or as the consequence of confusion because the laws are unclear.

[Fonseca] Is that deadline viable for you?

[Ortega] In this case we are all ready for it (a movement) to take place; it may be through the military profession, which would then mean respecting the law.

[Fonseca] Some people see this attitude of yours as insubordination.

[Ortega] No, the president of the republic decided to give an order outside of her constitutionally mandated obligations. The problem here is not insubordination, but rather respecting the law. We cannot transform subordination into submission.

[Fonseca] As an unselfish gesture of reconciliation, and given the controversy that your presence generates, are you not prepared to accept the 1994 deadline?

[Ortega] I am not prepared to allow the Constitution to be violated, to have the laws violated, to have agreements not kept, or to have dignity slighted through outside meddling or at the whim of very conservative forces which are not interested in stability but rather in humiliation.

[Fonseca] The possibility has been raised that you might leave under certain conditions. What are they?

[Ortega] There are no conditions. The only one we are setting is that the military profession must be respected. In my case, what interests us is that there be a law regulating how changes will be made in the future. In the law we are sending the president we say that the commander-in-chief should be rotated every six years, whenever there is a change in administration. I have decided that after the law is approved, if it is passed this year, I will not stay to complete my six years here. Though the law is not retroactive, I would assume that it began when President Violeta took office, and so I would leave at the end of my term, in this case, in April 1996. I want to leave in accordance with the law, and not in obedience to a precedent in which the government caved in to the North Americans.

[Fonseca] You talk about the legal problem, but perhaps the point is of a political nature....

[Ortega] I would be willing to leave today if there were really a national agreement in the political order here. We are clearly calling for the law to be obeyed. We are not being insubordinate to the president. In all these years we have never interfered with any economic policy of the government, even when we Army officers were certain that these were policies we did not consider right.

[Fonseca] It seems that Sandinism does not want to give in....

[Ortega] I will not allow that (a forced departure) to be done to my subordinates; nor are my subordinates going to allow it to happen to me. Our people are dying (fighting those who have rearmed), trying to restore order, but if we feel that this government wants to humiliate us, I do not know with what spirit we are going to defend a government that is treating us in that way.

[Fonseca] What do you think may happen between your position, which you call respecting the law, the position of the president who set a deadline of 1994, and the breakoff of political dialogue? How far will Nicaragua go?

[Ortega] If I leave humiliated in any way, a tremendous lack of security may arise here. There may be a terrible thirst for vengeance and revenge on the part of Sandinists, who would feel humiliated because the right imposed their will. The right now goes around singing victory with just Violeta's announcement, and causes provocation in the streets. A very tense situation is being created here.

[Fonseca] What is going to happen in cases like the Lenin Cerna case? (head of the police accused of multiple violations and tortures of political prisoners).

[Ortega] We have now reached a decision, though that decision has not yet been implemented. At the right time, and soon, but not as a result of pressure because "The Jackal" or Jesse Helms said he should be removed from his post. I am ready to move in that direction, and in my direction.

[Fonseca] What will your future be?

[Ortega] I see that my departure has to come about in the short term. I believe I will always be involved in helping to strengthen this process. My future might also include meditating a bit, writing about my experiences and taking some rest, and devoting a little more time to my family and children. (Ortega is married to a Costa Rican, Virginia Trejos, and has four children; three of them are Costa Rican).

Relations With the United States

[Fonseca] How would you describe relations with the United States?

[Ortega] Progressing. With (George) Bush we began a relationship that was substantially better than with (Ronald) Reagan, and with this (Clinton) administration we are entering a relationship that appears to be even better. I have heard from the State Department that it [the Clinton administration] has reiterated its willingness to maintain relations with the Sandinist Front. For some time leading representatives of the Sandinists have been meeting with Bernard Aronson, people like Comandante Ruiz of the National Leadership, or Daniel Ortega, who has on numerous occasions gone to meet with former President Jimmy Carter. In the Armed Forces, we now have a suitable relationship, which is growing stronger. The political sector is certainly where there have been the most trouble spots, which typically appears in [the U.S.] Congress.

Costa Rica and Fishman

[Fonseca] How are relations with Costa Rica?

[Ortega] They are normal. I think the most serious problem is that Nicaragua is becoming destabilized. Relations with Costa Rica would improve if we really moved toward peace. We have a lot to do in tourism, in economic and commercial exchanges.

[Fonseca] People say you have close ties to Costa Rica, and in particular your involvement in business activities is cited.

[Ortega] That is false. I have absolutely nothing, and business controls are in effect. I have had no time to get involved in business, which does not mean that I do not respect private enterprise.

[Fonseca] How would you describe your relations with Minister Fishman?

[Ortega] We have had a very professional, very respectful relationship with Luis . Maritime and border controls and coordination have been improved.

[Fonseca] In Costa Rica there is a certain amount of suspicion about your relationship with Fishman....

[Ortega] I have had a basically institutional relationship, but I think that if, to a touch of friendship can be added to a relationship of this type, that is all the better.

FSLN, Army, Elections

[Fonseca] Will it be possible for the Sandinist Front-Army umbilical cord to be loosened?

[Ortega] It has already disappeared. We are Sandinists but not Frontists. We have even been accused of being traitors. I have been willing to change the Army's name so the citizens will really see it as a national Army and not a partisan Army.

[Fonseca] What do you think of the proposal to move elections in Nicaragua forward because of the crisis?

[Ortega] That is an issue that needs to be discussed in a national dialogue. Political agreements are needed to put an end to the crisis. The Executive's term should be completed. To be specific, I would not favor shortening the presidential term.

Lacayo Firm About Ortega's Deadline

Antonio Lacayo, minister of the presidency of Nicaragua and son-in-law of President Violeta Chamorro, said there has been no reversal of the deadline set for the departure of General Humberto Ortega as commander of the EPS, which has been set for 1994.

Lacayo was interviewed on Thursday in his offices in Managua, several hours after LA NACION spoke with Ortega and he raised the possibility of staying on until 1996 through a legal reform that he wants to be debated in the Nicaraguan Congress.

This is a portion of our conversation with Lacayo.

[Fonseca] It would appear that General Ortega's interpretation is not so clear, saying that the deadline is to be set next year....

[Lacayo] If he is talking about the current law, that will be settled by consulting the Supreme Court, and if he is

talking about a new law, you may be certain that that law will not be approved if it contains a provision that does not meet with the president's wishes, for she is the person who ratifies laws. I find it difficult to imagine that a law contravening the political determination of the president expressed on 2 September might be ratified. As things now stand, there is no possibility that a law will be passed that would alter or go against what she believes is best for the nation on this issue.

[Fonseca] For now there has been no reversal in the 1994 deadline set for Ortega's departure?

[Lacayo] As far as I know, there has not been. That is up to the president who, under the Political Constitution, has the power to do that. I do not believe that the reasons that led the president to express her political determination on 2 September have changed.

[Fonseca] How is this conflict going to be resolved?

[Lacayo] By compliance with the law.

[Fonseca] Does that mean Ortega will have to comply with the 1994 deadline?

[Lacayo] Compliance with the law in this specific case means that the president of the republic, under current law, has the power to remove the commander in chief of the Army at any time.

[Fonseca] There is clearly a confrontation here. There has even been talk of a possible coup....

[Lacayo] The newspapers, the radio, and correspondents have talked about a possible coup, but there is no possibility of that here.

[Fonseca] Why?

[Lacayo] Because there is a fairly deeply rooted awareness among the Nicaraguan people, and particularly among people who fought and lost comrades in the past war, that violence and attempts to gain power through that means do not lead anywhere.

Panama

Article Criticizes Government on DEA 'Interference'

PA1310003393 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 8 Oct 93 p A4

[Article by Roberto Montanez: "Unacceptable Interference by the DEA"]

[Text] The basic condition for the establishment of relations of friendship and cooperation between states is respect for the principle of noninterference in internal affairs. This cardinal principle lies at the foundation of international law and is established in the United Nations Charter, as well as in the goals of the OAS. This is precisely because the state represents the national legal system, and sovereignty is its essential, sole and exclusive quality within the domestic sphere.

With the disappearance of the dialectic of confrontation, the powerful nations have adopted new forms of interventionism, no longer solely in defense of representative democracy but to impose models on which to fashion the negotiation of foreign debts and even programs to repress drug trafficking, regardless of where the crime was perpetrated.

Following the 1989 invasion, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency has gained preeminence over the Southern Command, the CIA, and the Embassy, which have traditionally formed the foundation of U.S. foreign policy toward Panama. This situation became evident during the Panamanian president's first trip to Washington at the beginning of May 1990 when, in the midst of the euphoria over Operation Just Cause, he agreed to sign three bilateral agreements in exchange for millions in aid that never materialized.

The agreements in question were: to authorize the DEA to board Panamanian-flagged ships in international waters; to authorize the U.S. Coast Guard to patrol Panamanian waters; and the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty, by virtue of which the Republic of Panama would recognize the extraterritoriality of U.S. laws against crimes involving drug trafficking and money laundering.

This is the DEA's operational system in Panama, which "authorizes" the federal agency to participate in local searches in order to investigate cases and make the alleged violators of their laws stand trial in the United States; the DEA can even abuse any reporter or citizen who, in its opinion, hinder its work in this country.

Therefore, the impunity of the DEA's conduct during its local inquiries should not come as a surprise because the Panamanian authorities justify its meddling by saying that drug trafficking is an international crime and its repression is not limited by sovereignty.

No one can imagine Judicial Technical Police agents knocking down doors in the Bronx in New York in pursuit of drug traffickers. That is precisely because reciprocity is a disproportionate legal fiction that serves no legal purpose in a bilateral agreement of this nature. Therefore, the Foreign Ministry should explain why DEA agents are granted diplomatic prerogatives in open violation of Cabinet Decree No. 280 of 13 February 1970 concerning privileges and immunity and of the Vienna Convention of 1961 on diplomatic relations.

The absence of deeply rooted convictions among Panamanian leaders has turned the country into a DEA theater of operations, with the manifest subordination of local investigative organizations, which have declared themselves incapable of executing searches in accordance with legal procedures. Because searches are public, they cannot be delegated when a crime is perpetrated in national territory. This same criterion prevailed in the

arms trafficking scandal when, following instructions from a U.S. Embassy customs official, local authorities maintained silence and subordinated themselves to intelligence organizations from other countries.

Furthermore, the Panamanian people were able to see on television how a reporter was treacherously attacked by an aggressive DEA covert agent. To date an official statement has not been made; on the contrary, the president, foreign minister, and chief of customs have justified the foreign agency's presence. Under other circumstances, the least we would have expected of the Foreign Ministry would be a declaration of persona non grata and the immediate expulsion of the undesirable foreign employee who is sheltered by diplomatic privileges.

I agree that the scourge of drugs has not only decimated the youthful population of the United States; it has done the same to our society. Therefore, all countries should work together to repress this crime. What I cannot agree with is the tameness that prevails among our local authorities, who interpret international cooperation as a synomym for legal subordination.

Therefore, the Legislative Assembly should revise the agreements signed by the president, which tolerate the presence of foreign agencies in the national territory. This would not only restore confidence in the national institutions that are involved in the repression of crime but prove to the international community that Panama is a country that has a character of its own and is capable of dealing with the challenge of administering the Canal despite foreign meddling.

Leaders of Dignity Battalions Released From Prison

PA1210140393 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] After being imprisoned for three years and 10 months, Benjamin Colamarco, Enrique Thompson, and Arturo Marquinez, leaders of the Dignity Battalions, were released this afternoon.

The release of Colamarco, Thompson, and Marquinez occurred at 1530 on Friday. Great were the expectations of friends and relatives who went to the Modelo prison to greet them. Colamarco, Thompson, and Marquinez addressed those present.

Colamarco appealed for peace and said that hereafter he will remain united with his family. He announced his decision to remain in the ranks of the Democratic Revolutionary Party. Colamarco and Thompson went to church with their relatives to thank God for their release.

Electoral Tribunal President on Joulwan's Remarks to Senate

PA1210232193 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 9 Oct 93 p 2

[Report by Roberto R. Rodriguez]

[Text] General George Joulwan, commander of U.S. Army South stationed on the banks of the Panama Canal, told the U.S. Senate that the U.S. military presence in Panama depends on the position Panamanians take in the scheduled 1994 elections.

Electoral Tribunal President Eduardo Valdes Escoffery warned that foreign interference will not be allowed during the 1994 electoral process. Valdes said it was up to the Panamanian Foreign Ministry to reply to Joulwan's remarks.

"He spoke before his Congress, not in Panamanian territory," added Valdes, inferring that the U.S. general made the aforementioned comments as part of his responsibility to inform the U.S. Congress about his tasks as commander of U.S. Army South.

Valdes added that those U.S. military responsibilities are set until the year 2000 in accordance with the treaties, and we have to wait to 31 December 1999, when the term for U.S. presence and meddling is expired.

Joulwan has been chosen to head NATO, and in order to be ratified in the post he had to appear before the Senate, where he praised Panama's counternarcotics efforts, among other things. When asked about the U.S. military presence in Panama, however, he limited himself—according to the EFE Washington version—to saying that Panamanians will have to decide the matter in next year's scheduled elections.

Argentina

Editorial on PRC Nuclear Test, Situation in PRC

PY1210194393 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 9 Oct 93 p 16

[Editorial: "The Chinese Bomb"]

[Text] The underground nuclear explosion carried out on 5 October by the PRC in the Lop Nur desert in Xinjiang Region, which was broadly covered by the Beijing press (contrary to custom), fell like a diplomatic bomb in Western foreign ministries.

In July 1962 the nuclear powers had managed to reach a consensus, which should last until September 1994, to suspend their nuclear tests. In the meantime, they were to try to reach an agreement on the subject. The PRC did not approve the moratorium, but neither did it resume its tests. Instead, the Beijing men signed the Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) accepting the general idea that the proliferation of nuclear weapons should be avoided.

The Chinese position, which is well known, was reiterated a few days ago at the UN General Assembly: The PRC endorses the total destruction of nuclear weapons and the immediate negotiation of a treaty to prohibit nuclear tests.

PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said that his country has demonstrated moderation in its nuclear tests (in fact it has carried out fewer tests than the other members of the "club") and that the crucial issue is that the PRC has decided not to use nuclear weapons: "China decided long ago not to use them, nor threaten to do so, against countries that do not have them or which are located in nuclear weapon free zones," he said.

Behind this rhetoric we must point out the fact that the PRC is not very certain of the direction of world affairs. The PRC continues to believe that force solves controversies so it wants to shorten the technological gap with other nuclear powers. The effect this policy has produced is regrettable because U.S. President Bill Clinton has instructed his administration to establish the conditions to resume nuclear tests next year (the moratorium is valid until then) if more violations of the moratorium are observed. Other members of this exclusive nuclear club, including Russia, have sided with him. Therefore, this represents an eventual setback in the denuclearization effort initiated by the end of the Cold War.

This implies, without doubt, a responsibility for the men in Beijing, providing that their challenge is not an effect of the war among factions concerning the succession of Deng Xiaoping, whose old age (he has just turned 89) presupposes his definite estrangement from the political decision-making circle where he at least symbolizes the unity of the regime.

The PRC underground explosion represents something else. It is the reply to the recent U.S. decision to apply sanctions to the PRC for having sold missile technology to Pakistan, a country that, as it is known, is obtaining its own atomic bomb. We are speaking of an M-11 mobile missile, capable of transporting an up to 450-kiloton nuclear warhead at a maximum 300-km range. Of course Beijing denies this transference of technology, which would allow the Karachi government to attack India.

U.S. companies have been forbidden to sell satellite and communications technology to the PRC, although the United States continues to maintain the most-favored-nation clause in its trade, the volume of which exceeds $30 billion annually, with the PRC.

These two political decisions demonstrate the ambiguousness of a policy that on the one hand demands Beijing respect human rights, including banishing "virtual slave labor" (through which the PRC manages to export products at very low cost), stop selling "sensitive" war materiel to third countries, and adhere totally to nuclear disarmament principles, and on the other hand wants to maintain trade advantages and investments in a country that is experiencing a spectacular development "boom." [preceding word in English]

The PRC resolves this progress in the material field combined with a weak political system with the need, as expressed by its leaders, to demonstrate that it makes autonomous decisions and that it does not depend on international pressures at all. This again places the PRC in a sideline position that had been overcome through the opening to the West initiated by Zhou Enlai and with the Shanghai agreements between Nixon and Mao Zedong.

As if this were not enough, episodes contrary to the Chinese program to recover its total territorial reunification are taking place. Independent movements are springing up in Taiwan, which is a contrast to other Taiwanese sectors' attempts at rapprochement with the continent.

The liberating measures tested by the current British governor in Hong Kong represent a challenge to the political strictness maintained by Beijing following the tragic events of Tiananmen Square, which constituted a tombstone for the democratic aspirations of the Chinese youth.

In this complex scene, as demonstrated by this analysis, there exists a disagreement between the PRC and the West beside the fear of the Chinese leaders that the internal situation may get out of control. The recent events in Russia, where the opposition supported by neo-Communists and ultra nationalists was crushed, probably affect the spirit of the men in Beijing.

One must ask oneself if the trend toward peace and disarmament is so fragile as to retreat in the face of these challenges, or if the international community will be able to reach agreements marked by wisdom to negotiate their disagreements and to defeat a common enemy, the "bomb."

Foreign Minister on Joining NATO, Falklands

PY1210164793 Buenos Aires PAGINA/12 in Spanish 10 Oct 93 p 6

[Interview with Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella by Martin Granovsky; place and date not given]

[Text] [Granovsky] Does Argentina have any specific interests in its relationship with NATO?

[Di Tella] We have a specific goal: To convince the United Kingdom that its efforts to deter Argentina's [military] re-equipment are groundless. Anything that will contribute to this goal is of interest to us.

[Granovsky] Does Argentina want to become a NATO member?

[Di Tella] Argentina's new alliance involves Western countries, which are symbolically represented by the OCDE [Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development]. The security organizations have defended us against the communist threat in the past, regardless of whether we were members. Becoming a full-fledged NATO member is unrealistic. Nevertheless, there is also the North Atlantic Cooperation Council, which includes former Soviet countries.

[Granovsky] Do you want a similar council for the South Atlantic?

[Di Tella] That is not what I am not saying. That is just one of many possibilities. We can only say that we want a closer relationship with NATO. We are going through a period of mutual observation. The fact that NATO will hold a seminar in Buenos Aires represents an important signal. We want to know how NATO views the security problem worldwide and we want to maintain a fluid relationship at the technical and political levels.

[Granovsky] Except for 1982, right?

[Di Tella] Argentina was governed by a military junta that had violated human rights, had an antagonistic stance toward the rest of the world, and did not know how to recover the islands. This led us to conflicts with friendly countries, like the United States and NATO.

[Granovsky] Does Argentina not want to enter a military alliance with Uruguay, Brazil, and South Africa?

[Di Tella] We are actually interested in the South Atlantic becoming a peace zone.

[Granovsky] Do you recognize the presence of the United Kingdom as a country in that zone?

[Di Tella] I do because it has islands that are not under dispute.

[Granovsky] Is there any project to form a defensive military alliance in the South Atlantic?

[Di Tella] No, but military and economic, among other fields, cooperation will necessarily crop up. We are very interested in South Africa's emergence as a legally approved country, both at the economic and security levels. There should be an agreement on nonproliferation in the South Atlantic.

[Granovsky] In what type of conflict would NATO defend Argentina?

[Di Tella] We do not have any threats and we need more cooperation at all levels, including the military level. For example, carrying out joint exercises with the South African Navy as of April (when the political transition period will begin there) is both possible and interesting.

[Granovsky] In this regard, what is NATO required for?

[Di Tella] For the time being, we are interested in their beliefs. We want NATO to tell us what the old NATO was like and what the new NATO is like. Does it plan on becoming a worldwide security organization? Does it want to cover the North and South Atlantic? What does it want? We want to be in touch. Membership should be a second thought. We shall see later. Anyway, it would be useful for us to project an image of peace in this zone through an agreement on the South Atlantic because the British are still acting as if Argentina were a residual annoyance.

[Granovsky] Nevertheless, Argentina would then also be recognizing the British presence in the South Atlantic, including the Malvinas ...

[Di Tella] We would be recognizing the British presence in the Ascension and St. Helena islands and the existence of a contentious discussion.

Economy Minister Sued By Supreme Court Justices

PY1210201293 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1611 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Oct (NA)—Supreme Court Justices Augusto Belluscio and Enrique Petracchi today filed a lawsuit for slander against Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo who called them "corrupt, and criminals."

The suit was filed by the justices legal representatives, lawyers Eduardo Zanonni and Enrique Paixao, at the Federal Court at noon today. As a result of an immediately conducted draw, the lawsuit will be heard at Federal Court Number 7, by Judge Adolfo Bagnasco.

* Consensus Needed To Bolster Reform Sparks Controversy

* Cafiero, Bordon on Consensus

93SM0455A Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 13 Sep 93 p 9

[Article by unidentified correspondent]

[Text] Following last week's setback resulting from Bordon and Cafiero's refusal to approve constitutional reform in the Senate, the Consensus Committee of the PJ [Justicialist Party] bloc has not stood idly by, but gone on to draft an agenda in order to dialogue with such high-level economic and social institutions as the CGT [General

Confederation of Labor] and the Argentine Industrial Union (UIA). They also plan to talk with organizations representing the press and to approach Socialist Guillermo Estevez Boero and Liberal Alvaro Alsogaray.

Following the ruling party's failure to get the Senate to pass the government's proposal reforming the constitution, the Consensus Committee of Justicialist senators has gone back to the drawing board with the difficult task of putting together an agreement on the proposal during an election period.

The issue at this point in time is not solely confined to political parties, but rather, brings such social and economic organizations as the General Confederation of Labor, Argentine Industrial Union, and Catholic Church into the dialogue. The measure also implies a decision not to allow the issue of reform to vanish from the political scene as the election campaign moves into its final phase.

In the meantime, the handling of the reformist proposal in the Senate (and the clause allowing the reelection of President Carlos Menem) was postponed for 13 October, 10 days after the elections, as a result of last week's failure. The government proved unable to line up all the Peronist senators and thus failed to muster the votes it needed to approve the bill halfway stating the need for the reform that they thought would be passed by Thursday or Friday of last week.

Jose Octavio Bordon was the first and Antonio Cafiero the second to refuse to vote for the measure, arguing that it did not have the necessary consensus. Within that context and facing certain defeat, the rest of the Justicialist senators swallowed their anger and agreed with the dissenters on a fourth recess until October. They also accepted Cafiero's idea of once again promoting the work of the Consensus Committee. That group, made up of senators from the Justicialist bloc, has already failed in its attempt to arrive at some sort of an agreement with the Radicals.

In addition to Cafiero, the Committee includes Olijela del Valle Rivas, Guillermo Snopek, Augusto Alasino, and Deolindo Felipe Bittel. Before last week's long session, they tried to reach a consensus in only three days, but ran out of time.

Their still tentative agenda for tomorrow includes a meeting with the head of the CGT, Naldo Brunelli, and they are scheduled to meet Thursday with Socialist Deputy Guillermo Estevez Boero and Liberal leader and deputy Alvaro Alsogaray.

The group of senators left Friday free for a meeting with the head of the UIA, businessman Jorge Blanco Villegas. The coming weeks will feature meetings with the Catholic Church, national universities, entities representing the media, and other concerned organizations.

Divided Bloc

Last week's fracaso left its mark on the Senate, whose president, Eduardo Menem, is furious with Bordon and Cafiero. Furthermore, in order to soothe feelings of bloc members and prevent the temperature from rising further, the senators serving on the Consensus Committee invited the head of the National Council of the PJ, Ruben Marin from Pampas, to the new round of talks.

Both Cafiero and Bordon defended themselves against the attacks yesterday, repeating their arguments in favor of a broad consensus. Cafiero said that "in the Senate, they cannot ask me for servile subordination to every proposal emanating from the Executive Branch."

Despite these words, senators closest to the government continue to blame Bordon and Cafiero for their refusal to vote for the proposal, noting that the ruling party lost an excellent opportunity to promote a reform including reelection. They lament the fact that the political issue most important to Menem is not being debated in the Chamber of Deputies, where it should have gone following approval by a two-thirds majority of the senators.

The schedule drafted by those in charge at the Casa Rosada [Executive Mansion] read as follows: to go into the 3 October legislative elections with Senate approval; on the day after the election (taking victory for granted), to call for a plebiscite on the reform for the first half of November, bringing the pressure of the result of the popular vote to bear on opposition lawmakers, particular those belonging to the UCR [Radical Civic Union].

* Reelection 'Enormous Risk'

93SM0455B Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 9 Sep 93 p 9

[Article by unidentified correspondent]

[Text] The Radicals were once again firmly united when it came time to oppose constitutional reform. Former President Raul Alfonsin called Peronist Senators Jose Octavio Bordon, Antonio Cafiero, and Alberto Rodriguez Saa patriots, and UCR deputies agreed to prevent the law confirming the need for constitutional reform from being passed by the Chamber.

Alfonsin praised the "patriotic attitude of those Justicialists who have decided to act with a sense of patriotism," an open reference to the decision of Bordon, Cafiero, and Rodriguez Saa, who announced that they would not vote in the Senate for the bill proclaiming the need for constitutional reform.

The former president said the mere fact of proposing the reelection of the president "is an enormous risk to democracy. In other words," he said, "we are confronted with something irreparable."

"The reform will not pass," the Radical deputies said, united behind a slogan of the Spanish Republic and perhaps crossing their fingers that they would endure a better fate than the one reserved for those who fought Francoism more than a half century ago in the streets of Madrid.

In Congress, La Rioja's Raul Galvan spoke on behalf of the 57 Radical lawmakers, the only ones present in a chamber

in semidarkness, with no reporters, sound equipment or loudspeakers, no one to bring the lawmakers a cup of coffee. In short, it was a session attended solely by a group of somewhat puzzled school children visiting the Chamber.

The scenario enabled Galvan to proclaim from his bench: "This Chamber is in semidarkness, portending the future awaiting the republic, and I regret the fact that these young people of Argentina (the school children) who have come to see how laws are debated should witness this sad spectacle."

* 'Consensus With UCR Totally Impossible'

93SM0455C Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 9 Sep 93 p 10

[Article by unidentified correspondent: "Menem Compares Bordon With UCR"]

[Text] The president says the senator's posture "amounts to saying that he opposes reform."

President Carlos Menem said yesterday that the conditions set by Senator Jose Octavio Bordon for supporting reform (reaching a consensus with the UCR) "amount to saying that he opposes reform." Menem said that seeking a consensus with the Radicals "is totally impossible," adding that Bordon "originally agreed with reform and now seeks consensus." In addition, the president returned to the idea of backing the call for a plebiscite because "the people cannot remain as silent as the grave" on the issue of reform.

President Carlos Menem said yesterday that the position maintained by Senator Jose Octavio Bordon of making his vote for constitutional reform dependent on the achievement of a consensus "amounts to saying that he opposes reform."

Until Monday night, the government had been confident that Bordon would support the ruling party's position on the need to reform the constitution. However, the senator from Mendoza said he would vote against it if no agreement was reached with the Radicals.

Menem granted an interview with Radio America yesterday during which he criticized what he said was a change in position on Bordon's part. "Senator Bordon originally agreed with the reform, but now seeks consensus," the president said, explaining that "the opposition of the Radical bench is total and absolute: seeking consensus or uniformity, two totally different things which they apparently confuse, is totally impossible at this point."

Bordon's refusal to support Menem's desire to reform the constitution complicated the official strategy of passing the measure in the Senate in a not overly complicated process. The Peronists need 32 votes for the two-thirds majority of the members of the Senate which the constitution requires. However, Bordon was joined in his position by Senator Antonio Cafiero, leaving those supporting the reform with only 30 votes.

Menem once again supported the idea of submitting the issue of constitutional reform to a plebiscite, maintaining that "we must take the voice of the people, of the nation, into account" because "the people cannot remain as silent as the grave on all this."

Journalist Daniel Hadad of Radio America quoted statements made by former President Raul Alfonsin "in which he hints that our democracy is headed in the same direction as that of Stroessner's Paraguay, Somoza's Nicaragua, or Trujillo's Santo Domingo." Hadad concludes: "As a result, I sincerely do not know whether it is worthwhile to consult him" on these statements.

Menem replied that "No, it is not worth the trouble. These rhetorical excesses are not deserving of comment. Furthermore, I do not want to engage in a controversy with the former president ever again."

Bolivia

Sanchez de Lozada Calls News Conference

PY1210190193 Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 5 Oct 93 pp A1, A6

[Text] La Paz, 4 Oct—President Sanchez de Lozada, together with more than 100 world leaders, attended the 48th United Nations General Assembly [UNGA]. The most salient issues in his mind during his visit to the United States were the plan to turn state-owned enterprises into mixed corporations under government control [capitalizacion], the crisis confronting the mining industry, the struggle against drug trafficking, alternative development, foreign aid, Bolivia's aspiration to get an outlet to the sea, a free trade agreement with Mexico and Canada, and the GATT negotiations.

The president believes that his trip to the United States was not in vain. He called a news conference at the Government House to brief reporters about his participation at the UNGA; his contacts with well-known entrepreneurs, who are interested in the plan to turn Bolivia's state-owned enterprises into mixed corporations under government control; his meetings with U.S. Department of State and the DEA personnel to discuss drug enforcement; and the official requests to the U.S. Government over the decline in traditional raw material prices.

Sanchez de Lozada termed his trip to the United States positive, adding that it should be considered within the framework of an exchange of ideas that sought to publicize the country's stance on the different problems it faces. This exchange occurred between top-level public and private organizations, enabling them to participate in the changes that the Bolivian Government intends to implement. "For an idea of the nature of this trip, one may say that it was educational, to sow seeds. We showed our reality, that we are a relatively small country in a world of some 200 countries, and we showed the great achievements we have attained in political and social stability," he said.

To emphasize this he mentioned the latest events in commotion-ridden Russia, which is of the utmost importance for Bolivia because it shows us in a positive light as a country that is economically and socially sound.

The first issue Sanchez de Lozada broached during the news conference was Bolivia's trade with the United States. During his talks with U.S. Government officials, he expressed concern about the 80 percent drop in Bolivia's exports of traditional commodities like mining products, gas, and others, to that country so far during his administration and spoke of the need for agreement to reduce the deficit in this year's trade balance to the minimum.

He also explained his stance on the U.S. Congress' decision to slash foreign aid for drug enforcement operations by 32 percent, noting that Bolivia formally requested a voice in the drafting of the new strategy to fight the peddling of illicit drugs, to eradicate coca crop surpluses, and to step up substitution programs.

This request was made in light of the fact that the Clinton administration is demanding real solutions to the problem of drug addiction. Hence, the participation of international financial organizations, like the Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] and the IMF, is fundamental to buttress crop substitution programs, which are the only solution to drug trafficking.

The president said that his UNGA address was a clear statement of the path on which the Bolivian Government, as a member of the society of nations, will embark to modernize the state. Sanchez de Lozada confirmed that he met with Bill Clinton but within the protocol of a social reception given by the U.S. President for all illustrious participants at the UNGA.

After this reception, Clinton took all Latin American heads of state aside to discuss bilateral issues. Clinton frustrated the discussion of a common issue that Presidents Sanchez de Lozada, Cesar Gaviria (Colombia), and Alberto Fujimori (Peru) wanted to air; namely the struggle against drug trafficking.

With regard to free trade, Sanchez de Lozada favors the opportunity for Latin American countries, especially those from South America, to join the North America Free Trade Agreement, NAFTA, which was recently signed between the United States, Canada, and Mexico. He said that this would be the only way for less-developed countries like Bolivia to have access to industrial markets.

He added that Clinton committed himself to bring the Uruguay Round of GATT to a successful conclusion. This will put poor countries on equal terms with other countries and help them to sell their products in a fluid international trade and avoid a decline in the price of traditional products.

As for the plan that envisages turning state-owned enterprises into mixed corporations under government control, Sanchez de Lozada expounded his intention of "transferring the wealth" generated from such an operation to the people. He said that American investors deemed this idea novel because they thought it gave stability to the government and to investors, given the fact that the people will be able to administer the resources generated from this operation in an appropriate manner. "We explained what for them is basically a financial consideration. They want to make profitable investments and we explained to them that, within the framework of our political and legal stability, the law on mixed corporations under government control is a guarantee for the future which also takes social problems into consideration because the mere fact of installing new companies in countries where there is dire poverty is not a recipe for stability," he said.

He noted that he explained in detail the way government-owned companies will be made available to businessmen interested in investing in Bolivia. He did this during meetings organized by managers from the IMF, the IDB, and other multilateral finance agencies. The president said that the state reform, which has come under fire at home, was praised by the UNGA participants, who pointed out that the great achievement of the current Bolivian Government was to have implemented deep reforms at the start of its administration.

He remarked that the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Environment is the first of its kind in Latin America. He added that the establishment of a social development portfolio was admired because it shows a step toward including a social component in economic stability.

Sanchez de Lozada stated that the government is not seeking to privatize state-owned enterprises, rather to strengthen them from a financial point of view so that the people may share in the profits.

Minister Explains Cabinet Organization

PY1210210593 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 1 Oct 93 p 2

[Interview with Minister of the Presidency Carlos Sanchez Berzain by unidentified reporter; place and date not given]

[Text] [PRESENCIA] The reduction of ministries in the executive branch follows the desire to reduce the state apparatus. However, if we analyze the functions given through Law No. 1493 we can see many examples of overlapping. Does that affect the efficiency and increase the state apparatus?

[Sanchez] The law is based on three concepts. First, prior to the approval of Law No. 1493, the organization of the executive branch was based on a model in which the state was the central element of economic activities. Times have changed and we are trying to turn the state into a very efficient organization with the basic functions of regulating activities that should fall under the social system.

Second, we not only seek a quantitative reduction of the state apparatus, we want to reform the executive branch administrative system without considering whether there

are more or less ministries or employees. The quantitative aspect is just a consequence of that efficiency we seek, but it is not the main objective.

Third, the executive branch administrative work has been regrouped under 10 ministries with modern concepts of coordination and compatibility. These ministries must coordinate their work among themselves, around the president of the Republic. That is why we use a different methodology to assign these functions and although it may seem we are dividing the work, we are really putting the executive branch administrative system in order.

[PRESENCIA] What main problems have been were found in this reorganization process?

[Sanchez] The main problem is the concept of order. The Ministerial Law was considered to be the change, but it is only the instrument for change. Based on this new organization, which will be completed once its regulating decree is promulgated, the executive branch will be more dynamic and the responsibilities will be better administrated because the functions will be better distributed. The state reform begins here and these instruments will be the tools for the change.

[PRESENCIA] How and when will the change take place?

[Sanchez] The change is the implementation of the Plan for All, that is, the people's participation, capitalization, and the struggle against hyper-corruption.

Popular participation implies that the people should have the option to decide, or at least to express their opinion, about the development of the place where they live, and to receive basic services such as health and education. The country has always been governed and administered from top to bottom, this administration thinks that it must be governed from top to bottom and administered from bottom to top. No administration is efficient if the people are not heard. Their needs cannot be known and satisfied on time.

Capitalization means allowing the state to get rid of several companies which, although they represent the savings of two generations of Bolivians, are currently without a future because they have no funds. These companies need fresh money. For this purpose, and this is the difference between this system and a privatization process, national patrimony will not be sold; it will receive national or foreign capitals. Thus, companies will comply with their real economic and social role. We want the participation of each citizen so that these companies can repay each citizen their part.

The third point is the fight against corruption which we are willing to establish through example. No measure will be successful if it is not accompanied by a responsible and honest administration. We are willing to work and to allow the people to control us. If we detect irregularities those responsible will have to answer in court and the government will not protect them.

[PRESENCIA] Following the changes in the executive branch it seems that some ministries are more important than others; for example, in the case of Sustained Development Ministry, which now is in charge of planning.

[Sanchez] Law No. 1493 and the regulating decree, which will be issued, were planned to organize an institutional system and not to shape the institutions according to the people. This explains why an individual who was described as a "super-minister," like the finance and economic development minister, should loose such a status before the eyes of the public and the description be applied to, for example, the sustained development and environment minister.

I want to say that all 10 ministers are super-ministers because their function is essential in an organization that must be well synchronized. If one fails, the organization will not work. The concept discussed in the cabinet, which we all accepted, is that all 10 ministries are important.

It is a fact that the one who conducts development planning is the sustained development minister, because his task is to combine the present with the future. Traditionally, the task of planning was in hands of the Coneplan [National Economic and Planning Council], which was presided by the planning minister. It was a meeting of several ministers that served to concentrate a decision and also to evade responsibilities. When a minister did not want to make a decision, he would take the subject to the Coneplan for discussion.

We are putting the work of the executive branch in order. The economic field, the implementation of short term economic policies is in the hands of the finance and economic development minister. Social issues are in hands of the human development minister, and planning is in hands of the sustained development and environment minister, whose task is to prevent development from becoming ineffective.

[PRESENCIA] We are under the impression that the Justice Ministry is not essential because it has general attributions and its functions could be carried out by an under secretary under the old cabinet system.

[Sanchez] That follows the little importance we Bolivians give to justice, perhaps because we are used to a system where justice does not exist (a poll has found that only 3 percent of the people are interested in justice). However, there are important reasons for creating a Justice Ministry.

First, justice is a system in crisis which, under certain circumstances, is available only to the rich and powerful. The judicial system is made up of all of us: judicial branch, lawyers, assistants, plaintiffs, and citizenry. Public opinion should control the efficiency of the administration of justice. Under this concept, the executive branch cannot be forgotten because it is its responsibility to integrate, promote, and improve the system, without clashing with the judicial branch, through the Justice Ministry.

Within this framework, it is important to implement a national human rights defense and preventive policy. We

have good laws to defend basic individual rights, but how many Bolivian citizens know their rights, and of those who know them, how many can make them be respected? Therefore this ministry should promote civic education and create a democratic culture among people.

Second, this ministry must promote the efficiency and suitability of the legal services rendered by the executive branch. These services have allowed the most corrupt procedures you can imagine. I am speaking of procedures which should be simple and accessible, like a change of license plates or of property names. These procedures have become so complicated that they are not available to common citizens. These services must therefore change.

Third, the Justice Ministry must suggest legislative and administrative measures against corruption and impunity. The defense of the state and society which, in the past few years has been in hands of prosecutors, has not worked. There are many charges of corruption and not a single individual is being tried for that. This does not mean that this ministry should become a court of inquisition, but it must suggest mechanisms to make judges and prosecutors proceed appropriately: When they do not, they should be liable to be sued by the executive branch through the Justice Ministry.

[PRESENCIA] It is remarkable that the social security services, which is a very sensitive subject, were not included in Law No. 1493. Does this change follow a decision to privatize the social security system in the long term?

[Sanchez] I would not go that far. We should judge things by their result and not by the intentions. We have simply organized in a different manner what in general terms is described as social security. We must distinguish between long- and short-term services. Traditionally, the two have been together but the health services ate up the retirement funds. This is why we do not have a good retirement system because over the years the funds have been corroded by hyperinflation, the de-dolarization of the economy, the national economic process, and corruption. That is why the two parts of the service must be divided and it must be recognized that the retirement system problem is mainly an economic matter. That is why it is currently under the control of the Finance Ministry while the health social security system is under the control of the Human Development Ministry.

I want to clarify that we are implementing these policies so as to render better services to the public. We do not intend to privatize the social security in the long-term but we are studying the subject to eventually suggest the best solution for the benefit of the country. I insist, we do not want to privatize just for the sake of privatizing, or because some people connected with private business are part of the government. We seek efficiency.

Officers, Defense Minister Deny Rumors of Unrest

PY1210225093 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Members of the military leadership today asserted that the military wasps' nest has calmed down. Over the last few days rumors have circulated in the country, but they proved to be nothing but speculation.

The National Constitution establishes that the Armed Forces are essentially obedient, that they are not a deliberating organization and that they are subject to military laws and rules. It states that, as an institution, the Armed Forces may not participate in political activities. In the last few days, the Armed Forces have been the focus of the news. The rumors mentioned a rebellion, but the Armed Forces' image is very clear: They are clearly subordinated to the civil and political powers and this is proven by the remarks by several military leaders.

[Begin General Jose Perez, Air Force commander in chief, recording] As far as I know, in his position as Armed Forces commander in chief, the president of the Republic has respected the military seniority and hierarchy. These rumors are speculation by people with vested interests. [end recording]

In the opinion of the Air Force commander in chief, these speculations have stirred up the military wasps' nest.

[Begin Defense Minister Antonio Cespedes recording] No wasps' nest has been stirred up. The military leadership has simply been replaced in absolutely normal conditions. [end recording]

It is said that there is no smoke without fire. Gen. Moises Schriqui [Army chief of staff] was the one who started this fire. In his usual manner, however, he said nothing has been going on.

[Begin recording] [Schiriqui] [words indistinct].

[Unidentified reporter] Were you on vacation?

[Schiriqui] No, I have not left my office.

[Reporter] According to some members of the media, you were in the eye of the storm. Are you sure nothing has been going on?

[Schiriqui] No, nothing at all.

[Reporter] Nothing at all?

[Schiriqui] No, I have not been in vacation or requested any day off. None at all. The situation is entirely normal.

[Reporter] Are you satisfied with being chief of staff, above and beyond the principle that a military does not discuss orders?

[Schiriqui] No, no we do not. We military... [pauses] The process has been normal. I am entitled to that because I am the second most senior officer, right after the commander in chief. Everything is normal. [end recording]

The president of the Republic is holding a meeting with the military commanders. The defense minister gave us details of the meeting.

[Begin Cespedes recording] The commanders reported to the president of the Republic the most important topics relative to each Armed Forces branch. [end recording]

Exactly 10 years and two days ago, the military handed power over to the civilians. Each one of us, all of us, Bolivia, America, and the rest of the world hope that democracy continues its course in our country without any difficulty.

Coca Producers Leader Criticizes U.S. Drug Policy

PY1210151293 La Paz HOY in Spanish 3 Oct 93 Section Two p 1

[Text] Sucre, 2 Oct (ERBOL [Bolivia Radio Schools])—Coca leaves are sold to whoever offers the best price because producers are free to sell the fruit of their work to whoever they want, said German Portanda, leader of the Chapare-Yungas Region coca producers. Portanda added that the United States does not have the right to demand that Bolivians die of hunger.

Portanda came to Sucre to attend a seminar on administrative decentralization and, without mentioning the supply and demand system the government has imposed since 1985, said the coca trade is not exempt from such a system.

He said the freedom of coca producers to sell their produce is morally supported by two aspects. On the one hand, the government compensation for each hectare of eradicated coca crops is not enough to allow a family to survive long enough to harvest an alternative crop. On the other hand, the government's "Alternative Development" program has totally failed not only due to the lack of technical assistance and financial support but also because there are no sure markets for alternative products.

Portanda added: To all I have said, beside the fact that the United States is mainly to blame for the collapse of national mining activities, it does not have the right to demand any kind of eradication of coca leaves. "The United States does not have the right to demand that Bolivians die of hunger," he said.

The coca leader also spoke about the excesses committed by the counternarcotics forces, like in the case of an intervention that took place a few days ago in some civilian settlements in El Chapare Region, causing great concern and uncertainty among the people. He said these actions are dangerous because beside harming the people, they may feel forced to defend themselves by any means available.

He attributed the incident to "U.S. orders and the blind obedience by its national collaborators." He thus ratified that the peasants will make a greater effort to have coca cultivation declared not liable to penalization. "The government strategy for coca is the same as past administrations by which, beside using force, they seek to substantially reduce coca prices to force peasants to abandon their crops and die of hunger," Portanda added.

Portanda blamed the crisis in the peasant labor movement, especially as the result of internal political and party struggles among its leaders, on the Bolivian Labor Federation.

BJ Group Claims Responsibility for Bombings

PY1210143293 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Report by Edwin Mallon from Cochabamba]

[Excerpt] Those who have been attacking Catholic Church buildings have finally shown signs of life. The self-styled group BJ, Justicialist Brigade has appeared. In a communique, the BJ reports that it will continue these types of attacks. It supplies some dates.

In the communique, the BJ points out that it is acting in revenge against a priest and an entrepreneur, clearly referring to the Reverend Father Rene Panoso and an industrialist whose last name is Saavedra. This situation, however, is unclear because the departmental police are not even aware of this communique, or they do not want to report on it.

In a nutshell, this Justicialist Brigade, using illegible writing, announces that it will continue these types of attacks. The communique mentions $60,000. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Cardoso Facing Worst Time Since Taking Office

PY1210125093 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 10 Oct 93 Section 1 p 7

[Article by Sonia Mossri and Ivanir Jose Bortot]

[Text] Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso is facing his worst moment in the government, although he is showing optimism. The Treasury will have a $10-billion deficit in 1993 and an estimated $25-billion deficit in 1994. Cardoso is proposing austere measures to control the expenses, but President Franco is not supporting them publicly.

The Finance Ministry still has not reached a consensus on the tools it will use to lower inflation, thus weakening its own team in the eyes of Planalto Palace. President Franco is impatient about the team's lack of definition and is asking for measures.

The sale of state-owned companies would be an alternative to generate additional revenue, but the privatization program has not taken off. The president himself opposed the sale of Rio Doce Valley Company and BR Distribuidora [a subsidiary of Brazilian Petroleum Corporation], which are considered essential to strengthening the privatization program.

In Cardoso's party, the Brazilian Social Democracy Party [PSDB], congressmen are discreetly commenting that the minister already has reasons to tender his resignation, in view of the lack of conditions to implement his program. PSDB President Tasso Jereissati (Ceara State), told FOLHA the minister is not considering the possibility of resigning because this "would be an irresponsible act."

Cardoso's team already has identified his opponents within the government. They are led by a group of [former President] Sarney followers such as Civil Household Minister Henrique Hargreaves and Regional Integration Minister Alexandre Costa, who were appointed as critics of the Finance Ministry's proposals.

Concern About Reserved Telecommunications Market

PY1210222693 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 4 Oct 93 Section 1 p 9

[Article by Elvira Lobato]

[Text] Reserving the telecommunications equipment market for products manufactured in Brazil, as proposed in Resolution 647 from the Telecommunications Ministry, will cost Telebras [Brazilian Telecommunications, Inc.] $48 million per year. This calculation was made by the four largest industries in the field, NEC, Ericsson, Alcatel, and Equitel, which support the contents of the resolution, and oppose participation by foreign suppliers in Telebras system biddings being attended by Brazilian manufacturers.

According to these four largest companies, the $48 million are equivalent to the difference between the price of the telephone switchboards manufactured in the country ($220 per unit) and the imported product ($160 per unit). The companies based these calculations on the possibility that Telebras would sign contracts for the sale of 800,000 switchboards per year. These telephone switchboards are the main target in the market competition.

In a news conference, NEC do Brasil President Gilberto Garbi, Ericsson Director Sergio Lopes, Equitel Director Verner Dittmer, and Alcatel Director Armando Medeiros asserted that the government must absorb the difference in prices as a social cost, and thus maintain the 25,000 direct jobs and 100,000 indirect jobs which are created by the industries installed in the country. "If the government's single criteria in its purchases is price, and if it opens the market to foreign competition, we will close the plants and dismiss the employees," Dittmer said.

Resolution 647 proposes that the Telebras system biddings for equipment purchases be open only to national manufacturers, only admitting equipment imports if there is no similar product locally or if the national products are clearly not competitive in price and quality. The resolution was opened to public discussion by Communications Minister Hugo Napolao on 27 May, and unleashed a ferocious war in the telecommunications sector.

A group of national companies, Sid Telecon (Group Machline), Promon Eletronica, Splice do Brasil, and Telemulti, oppose the resolution, as they have associated themselves with large foreign suppliers and want to participate in the biddings with imported products until they begin manufacturing them locally. Sid became a partner with the U.S. company AT&T; Promon with the Canadian company Northern; Telemulti with the German company Bosch; and Splice with the ROK company Goldstar.

These companies gave the communications minister a counterproposal, and suggested that reserving the market only refer to equipment with technology developed in the country. They also suggested that protection, through import taxes, be created for the industries that locally manufacture products with foreign technology. Splice do Brasil President Antonio Roberto Beldi asserts that by opening the market to these products the price of the equipment has decreased by 50 percent since 1990, when the reserved market for the sector, which was created in 1978, was suspended.

The difference in opinion among the industries was reflected in the national Congress and in Abinee [Brazilian Electro-Electronic Industry Association]. The Science and Technology Committee of the Chamber of Deputies has been discussing the issue for four months, and will only conlude its report by mid-October. Abinee has even defended the resolution, but stopped commenting on the issue because its members have different opinions about it. With Abinee's silence, NEC, Equitel, Alcatel, and Ericsson, which compete in the Brazilian market, put their differences aside and began to publicly defend the resolution.

The strategy involves an all-out attack against the Brazilian companies that signed agreements with AT&T, Northern, Goldstar, and Bosch. According to the NEC president, the increase in import taxes suggested by those who oppose Resolution 647 does not satisfy the local industries, because suppliers from abroad can avoid the tax bareer by importing the products through the Manaus tax-free zone. "Even if the government establishes customs fees at the 1,000 percent level, it will add to nothing. Our next war will be against the installation of telecommunications industries in the tax-free zone," Garbi said.

Update on Firm Deterioration, Interest in Sale

PY1210122693 Sao Paulo VEJA in Portuguese 6 Oct 93 p 111

[Text] The agony of Engesa [Specialized Engineers, Inc.] seems to have no end. The company, which was one of the largest manufacturers of tanks, armored vehicles, and military trucks in the world, has been wasting away for three years since it asked for a consolidation of creditors. Of an industry that made a profit of $2.7 billion over 20 years and sold its vehicles to several countries, now there only remains a group of closed warehouses. However, there are people, who are involved in operations that can be called at least obscure, very much interested in these remains. The person who is willing to purchase Engesa now is a member of Sao Paulo high-society circles, Wilson Mendes Caldeira Jr., aka "Cito." He is said to have negotiated on weapons in the past. Cito asserts that he has a partner in Saudi Arabia called Overseas Finance and Management Corporation. He even asserts that a representative of this company is working in an office next to his in Sao Paulo, but he does not allow anyone to come close enough to check on that.

The alleged business with Engesa mobilized Itamaraty, which asked Brazilian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Luis

Villarinho Pedroso to verify whether this company exists. Villarinho Pedroso says it does not. "This company is not registered in Saudi Arabia," Villarinho Pedroso told VEJA. Other people who deal with weapons assert that the company exists but is probably headquartered in another country, maybe in a tax-shelter country. Even weapons dealers believe Overseas is a nebulous company. The figures involved in the business are also nebulous. It is known that Engesa has been bogged down in a $500 million debt, but Cito has reported that he began the transaction by handing a symbolic check last July for $15 to the company's owner, Jose Luiz Whitaker. The Arab partners allegedly will contribute the rest of the money necessary to pay the company's debts. They have to conclude the business before 15 October, but Cito believes this deadline may be postponed. He plans to obtain a 50 percent reduction in the company debts.

So far there is no indication that the deal Cito and his Arab partners want to conclude will become a reality. It will not be easy to convince the largest creditors, such as the Bank of Brazil, the National Bank for Economic and Social Development, and the Army, to accept receiving less than the amount Engesa owes them. The company owes nearly $100 million to the Army alone for the advance payment it made on 1,300 tanks that have never been delivered. If Cito or some other person interested in purchasing Engesa does not close the books on it, the courts may decree the company's bankruptcy and confiscate Whitaker's assets to pay for the debts.

Tinsmith's Shop

One of the Engesa plants in Sao Jose dos Campos, in the interior of Sao Paulo State, is still functioning. Last May, a group of employees obtained Whitaker's permission to administer the company and keep it working. Instead of tanks they are assembling jeeps for civilian use, tractors, agricultural equipment, and even doing metal work on cars. They are a group of almost 200 people who earn a salary of up to 6,000 real cruzeiros per week. The star of their new line of products is the Engesa-4 jeep. It is a sturdy, good-quality vehicle that costs $20,000.

Engesa's history is so full of mysteries and obscure episodes that it will become a book. It is being written by journalist Roberto Lopes, an expert on the materiels industry. The book tells the story of the Flying Carpet, the 707 Boeing Whitaker used to promote his businesses, and even includes people involved in former President Fernando Collor's scandal such as Pedro Paulo Leoni Ramos, aka PP, who was Collor's secretary for strategic affairs. PP tried in vain to sell Engesa to the British Aerospace group.

Another business, however, is under way. A former Engesa executive, retired Colonel Walter Catharino, and entrepreneur Wilson Gianetti, who owns a mining company, are trying to find foreign partners interested in purchasing the company. They have apparently been beaten by Cito and his Arab partners. Among weapons dealers, weapons' experts, and former Engesa executives, there is an insistent suspicion that Whitaker is the one behind Cito and not the Arabs. Whitaker's objective would be to negotiate the reduction of the debt and again control the company to save his assets from the bankruptcy bonfire. Whitaker refused to talk to VEJA about the issue.

Government Seeks Bids on Amazon Surveillance Plan

PY1210133093 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 9 Oct 93 p A6

[Article by Joao Bosco Rabello]

[Text] Brasilia—The Brazilian Government has invited 14 countries to participate in international bidding to provide technology and equipment to be part of the Amazon Region Surveillance System (Sivam). Local companies will hardly be able to compete, unless it is through the creation of a consortium involving a foreign partner, due to the program's high cost.

It is estimated that the purchase of equipment and technology for the Sivam project will cost between $600 million (nearly 85.5 billion real cruzeiros at the official exchange rate and today's prices) and $800 million. The cost estimate forced the government to ask interested groups to include their own financing in their proposals. The system's software will be entirely national.

Steps to install the program are being accelerated for political reasons. The government has been suffering international pressure over environmental issues in the Amazon region, which were aggravated by the recent massacre of Ianomamis Indians in Venezuelan territory. The decision to organize a bidding using the method of inviting countries with experience in the production of the needed equipment also has provoked criticism that the government was avoiding a public bidding. Admiral Mario Cesar Flores, minister-chief of the Strategic Affairs Secretariat [SAE], answered those charges. He said there will be an international bidding, but without publicity due to strategic reasons. "The bidding mechanism will be maintained, but we will not reveal secrets of the equipment's data," Flores said.

The minister said the government does not intend to extend a security dome over the Amazon territory. He argued, however, that no country relents its rights, in any circumstances, of secrecy on data related to military equipment and systems. Flores said that countries bordering the Brazilian legal Amazon region, Venezuela, Bolivia, Colombia, Guiana, Peru, Suriname, and Guyana, will be invited to participate in the system's benefits. He also said the program, that will be installed, is not inspired by a national defense philosophy but by a desire to protect the environment and guarantee the Amazon region's sustainable and orderly development.

Flores said the system's security lies in the fact that Brazil will control the software used in the system. He said this capability is due, in part, to the country's market reserve policy in effect in the country some time ago. The acceleration of the program coincides with the rehabilitation of the Calha Norte Project [security belt around northern borders] and the strategic settlement of the Amazon region

by the military, which in the past weeks has been developing the largest jungle survival and war training program ever undertaken by the Brazilian Armed Forces in the Amazon region: the Surumu operation.

The process to select the countries offering to produce equipment for the Sivam program will extend until July 1994. According to the schedule established by SAE, the commercial and technical proposals made by interested groups will be received through January 1994. All the proposals will be evaluated by July.

The Sivam program will have a total of 17 radars, which will basically be used to control air traffic in the Amazon region. The new equipment, which will be financed by the Brazilian Government, will be connected to the three Army subcenters in the legal Amazon Region: Belem, Manaus, and Porto Velho. The government expects the system will be fully operational in five to seven years.

23 Prospectors Indicted in Ianomamis Massacre

PY1210140293 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 2 Oct 93 p A15

[Text] Brasilia—In a report sent to the Roraima Federal Court on 1 October, the Federal Police [PF] classify the massacre of 16 Ianomami Indians in August as genocide and request the preventive arrest of the 23 Brazilian gold prospectors charged with the massacre. According to investigation conducted by Police Inspector Raimundo Soares Cutrim, who presided over the inquest on the massacre, the gold prospectors had planned to kill all the Indians living in the Haximu and Tapiris villages in Venezuelan territory.

The PF investigation indicates that the reason for the massacre was a gold prospector's unfulfilled promise to give one of the Indians a hammock. According to the laws, those charged with genocide can be sentenced to the sum of years contemplated for simple homicide (Article 121) and assault and battery (Article 129), which can total up to 21 years in jail.

The document reports in 41 pages the horror of the massacre and is based on testimony by the surviving Indians. Cutrim names 15 gold prospectors, who are directly responsible for the tragedy, and seven others [number as published] who gave them cover. Four male Indians were killed in June and 12 others, men, women, and children, were killed in another conflict in August. Cutrim indicted the 23 gold prospectors on genocide charges and asserted that they did not kill all the Indians living in the two villages because most of them had left in two groups: one to attend a party at Simao's village and the other to gather inga fruit in the forest.

The report indicates that the initial reason for the massacre was gold prospector Joao Neto's unfulfilled promise to give one of the Indians a hammock. Feeling betrayed, a group of Indians shot into the air and were murdered as a result.

Colombia

Search Bloc Narrowly Misses Capturing Escobar

PA1310012593 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Report by Maribel Osorio and Carlos Julio Betancourt in Medellin for the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] An unusual movement of troops, six helicopters, two Hercules airplanes, and the sudden departure of the assistant director of the National Police to Medellin alerted the citizenry that a trap was about to be sprung on Pablo Escobar, one of the most sought after men in the world. It seems the authorities are indeed on his heels. This is not another one of the hundreds of operations in search of Pablo Escobar: It is directly led by high-ranking Police and Army commanders.

All Search Bloc forces participated: the Police, special urban and rural Army troops, and the Military Police from Santa Fe de Bogota. The discovery of a sophisticated arms cache in a residence raided by the military gave the operation special importance. It was unofficially reported that two rifles, one pistol, a communication radio, clothes, documents, and a notebook were found in the cache. The notebook reportedly belonged to Pablo Escobar, but the media has not yet been granted access to the facilities.

The Search Bloc, supported by six helicopters, arrived here yesterday at 1400 and began a door-to-door search of homes situated on three hills. A roadblock was set up at the turnoff to San Antonio de Prado and a small village consisting of 12 houses in Belen, Aguas Frias. No vehicles are allowed to enter or depart, and everyone is being searched. Although this is the most thorough and heavily manned deployment, the Search Bloc has failed to provide information on Pablo Escobar. Everything seems to indicate that he has escaped one more time. Nevertheless, they claim that this is the closest they have come to catching him since his escape from La Catedral.

According to area residents, a man arrived six months ago offering large sums of money for various residences located around the house where the cache was found, but they say they know nothing about who lived in the house. The air and land search has been going on for more than 27 hours, and the troops have yet to receive the order to withdraw. The Search Bloc continues in the hope that Pablo Escobar will finally be caught.

The authorities say that Pablo Escobar had been isolated for some time, and last night he made a telephone call during which he stated that he was desperate. That call gave the Search Bloc the clue to begin tracking him down. The Search Bloc intercepted the telephone call during which Escobar desperately asked someone to help him escape because the military was closing in. In another conversation held hours ago with his son Juan Pablo, Escobar told him he intends to surrender because he feels desperate and cornered. Juan Pablo, however, asked him not to do it until he, his mother, and his sister have left the country. These and other clues have placed the Search Bloc

units in a state of alert. If Escobar has dared to use the telephone to ask for help, it means he truly feels cornered, a Police source stated today. Escobar had not used the telephone before because he knew his conversations were monitored. Following this incident, the authorities have launched the so-called Operation Rake in Medellin. The operation is progressively concentrating on a rural area of Rio Negro.

Preliminary reports indicate that Escobar had arrived at one of the local farms hours ago but had already left by the time Police and Army forces arrived. Nevertheless, the operation continued in the area until the early morning hours, although it failed to yield results. Special urban forces left for Medellin today in two Colombian Air Force Hercules airplanes to support the Search Bloc forces.

Last night's operation allowed authorities to raid a residence, where they found evidence proving that the drug trafficker had been in the premises minutes before it was raided by the military. Two women were arrested during the raid. They had been with Pablo Escobar at a farm in Altavista, southwest of Medellin. Pablo Escobar had given this farm to Father Garcia Herreros. That is where the authorities found two rifles, one agenda, one communication radio, the last letters sent through the post office, and the clothes he wore yesterday. He has been cornered by 700 men of the Search Bloc. The air and land operation will continue throughout the night to prevent his escape.

Security Forces on General Alert After Attacks

PA1210215793 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Report by Patricia Uribe from the "NTC News" newscast]

[Text] Government security agencies have been placed on general alert. Army Commander General Hernan Guzman is in charge of the operations.

[Begin recording] [Guzman] The situation is under control in Santa Fe de Bogota. There have been several explosions, including an attack against the police, another against the registrar's office, and another against Ernesto Samper's campaign headquarters. We have sent orders to the 13th Brigade and coordinated operations with the National Police to have better control over Bogota. Given the chosen targets, I believe the guerrillas are responsible for these attacks.

[Uribe] Have your preliminary investigations proved that theory? Could it be narcoterrorism in retaliation for the Angelito [Alfonso Puerta Munoz] events?

[Guzman] I think we can safely say the guerrillas are responsible.

[Uribe] Who is responsible for the attacks on the Barrancabermeja oil pipeline?

[Guzman] We are working on that case now. We have deployed a special unit to the scene. These terrorist attacks are usually perpetrated by subversive movements such as those operating near Yariguies or by Simon Bolivar National Coordinating Board rebels in the Barrancabermeja area. We have contacted the commander of the 2d Division and have given him orders to act accordingly. [end recording]

Dijin Admits Possible Infiltration by Drug Traffickers

PA1310002793 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Oct 93

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] General Jairo Antonio Rodriguez, Dijin [Judicial Police and Investigations Directorate] director, has finally commented on regarding accusations by alleged drug trafficker Miguel Rodriguez Orejuela on the alteration of documents. The general admitted the possibility that his institution may have been infiltrated. The Dijin director said today that accusations by Miguel Rodriguez Orejuela against Colonel Alonso Arango have no foundation as the report he is referring to is internal. Regarding accusations that the institution has been infiltrated by drug trafficking, the high- ranking official said no institution is free from this evil that is undermining all societies. Here is what Gen. Jairo Antonio Rodriguez said:

[Begin Rodriguez recording] I do not want to give an opinion now. It would be better to wait for the investigation's results. All institutions are susceptible to this kind of thing; however, a categorical statement cannot be made. That is not a reasonable option at this time. [end recording]

In conclusion he explained that the investigation's results will be made public when the work is completed.

President Reports Inflation; Deforestation

PA1210232493 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Report by Victor Lopez; from the "Up to the Minute Caracol" newscast]

[Text] Colombian President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo insists that this year's inflation will not surpass 22 percent. In addition, he has indicated that the unemployment rate will fall to 9.5 percent, that is, two percent less than the 1992 rate.

During the closing speech, read by Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin de Rubio, at the Latin American Industrial Confederation of Cellulose and Paper conference being held in Cartagena, the president revealed that private investment grew 73 percent this year. In his opinion, this demonstrates that the country has great opportunities for development. In the speech, Gaviria noted that much of this increase was achieved through the export of capital goods, which registered a 49 percent increase. Referring to the crisis reported by Colombian paper producers, Gaviria said he is not ignoring the difficulties international competition has generated for this sector. Nevertheless, despite this situation, paper producers exported during the first

half [time period not specified] $29.4 million, as opposed to $16 million in the same period last year.

In his message to the Latin American paper producers, President Cesar Gaviria blamed drug trafficking for deforestation in the nation. Of the 114 million hectares of forest in Colombia, between 360,000 and 600,000 hectares are subjected to this activity. He also indicated that besides drug trafficking, phenomena like settlements, illegal agriculture exploitation, forest industry, and the use of wood for energy are leading to this ecological disaster that Colombians are anxiously monitoring. Faced with this immense problem, Gaviria noted, it was necessary for the Congress to approve the government's draft bill on the creation of the Environmental Ministry. This would be the national environmental system that would form the regional, departmental, and municipal regulatory framework for this issue. Mr. Gaviria Trujillo called on the Congress to include as a priority on its agenda the debate of this draft bill.

Rebel Police, Reservists Form Political Group

PA1210224293 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 10 Oct 93

[From the "TV Today" newscast]

[Text] A new political group was formed today in Bogota, the 21st Century Moral Reserve Movement. It is made up of 1,500 reservists, who rebelled from the ranks of the Armed Forces and the police. The group demands dialogue with the guerrillas and does not admit generals or colonels in its ranks.

Meeting in the Senate building, the reservists declared themselves insurgents and announced they will visit guerrilla camps to seek peace in the country.

[Begin Leader Sergeant Carlos Florez recording, in progress] ...to tell the subversion to stop right there; we can no longer remain at a deadlock where neither side is winning the war. [end recording]

Ecuador

President Duran-Ballen To Attend Rio Group Summit

PA1210211693 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Oct 93

[From "The Voz Andes" newscast]

[Text] President Sixto Duran-Ballen will travel to Chile on 14 October to attend the Group of Rio summit and to conduct an official visit upon the invitation of Chilean Presidnt Patricio Aylwin. The president will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Diego Paredes and other government officials. The delegation will depart at 0830 on a [word indistinct] flight.

Sixto Duran-Ballen will sign an executive decree at 0800 that same day, leaving Vice President Alberto Dahik in charge. His return is scheduled for Tuesday, 19 October, at noon.

Duran-Ballen and Aylwin will analyze the role played by the UN and the OAS, strengthening a democratic system as a form of government, the defense of human rights, cooperation in the mining sector, mechanisms to attract Chilean investors, and negotiations concerning an economic cooperation agreement. A joint declaration will also be signed.

Central Bank Releases Trade, Inflation Figures

PA1210154893 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Oct 93

[From the "The Voz Andes" newscast]

[Text] Quito—The Central Bank reported today that the January-July trade balance registered a $595 million surplus in comparison with a $356 million surplus for the same period in 1992. The Central Bank said exports amounted to $1.7 million and imports $1.1 million. During the first seven months of 1992, the figures were $1.7 million in exports and $1.3 million in imports. The figures disclosed today, which include a balance of payments adjustment, are the latest ones to be reviewed and they are still provisional, according to the Central Bank.

The Ecuadoran foreign debt up until the end of June, including interest that has become due, amounts to $12.3 billion compared to $12.4 billion up until May and $12.1 billion up until December 1992.

The Ecuadoran Government said that 1993's declining inflation figures indicate that by December inflation will be running at about 30 percent, compared to more than 60 percent a year earlier. Accumulated inflation up until September amounts to 24.2 percent, compared to 46.8 percent during the same period in 1992, which will permit the government to reach its 30 percent target by year's end, according to the Central Bank report.

Andean, American, EC Delegates Meet in Quito

PA1210144393 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Former presidents of five Andean countries and delegates from the Americas and the EC opened a meeting in Quito today to review relations between Europe and the Andean area of South America.

The meeting, which will last three days, is being held under the auspices of the Institute of European-Latin American Relations, Irela, headquartered in Madrid, and the Corporation for Studies for the Development of Ecuador, Cordec.

The delegates will discuss issues including the challenges of Andean integration during the 1990's, the EC outlook for 2000, and trends in exports and investments over the past few years.

Paraguay

Wasmosy Addresses Congress on 7 Oct Incident, Other Issues

PY1210213693 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 1936 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Address by Paraguayan President Juan Carlos Wasmosy from the national Congress in Asuncion—live]

[Text] Your Excellency President of the National Congress, Dr. Evelio Fernandez Arevalos; Your Excellency President of the Chamber of Deputies, Dr. Francisco Jose de Vargas; Messrs. senators and deputies, representatives of the thoughts and feelings of our people; fellow citizens:

I have come to this honorable national Congress to speak before senators and deputies, representatives of the Paraguayan people. I am accompanied by the vice president of the Republic, Dr. Angel Roberto Seifart, who according to our national Constitution is the link between the executive and legislative branches and my colleague in my presidential duties.

I have come here to ratify my profound conviction that this Congress plays an essential role in the task of building the new Paraguay that we all want.

All Paraguayans are obliged to respect and enhance our legislative branch. This obligation gives a double commitment to those who play responsible roles at any of the country's administrative levels.

This message seeks to set a position, in an unquestionable manner, concerning the regrettable incidents last Thursday in front of the Legislative Palace, especially because of the unfortunate stance adopted by some of those responsible for public order.

I have personally sought full information on the incidents before adopting the appropriate measures. In this task I found very useful the visit—with which I was honored the same day—from the president of the national Congress, Senator Evelio Fernandez Arevalos, and from Senate bloc leaders Juan Carlos Galaverna and Rafael Casabianca, as well as from the chairman of the Constitutional Affairs Commission, Senator Rodrigo Campos Cervera.

I do not forget, and I hope none of the congressmen will forget either, that we are all part of the national government, and that for this reason, within the principle of division of roles, we have common responsibilities before our fellow citizens.

You must rest assured that I will fulfill all my responsibilities as president of the Republic without any doubts or hesitations. I can thus see very clearly that the violence staged on Thursday was not addressed against any given congressman, but against the government of the Republic and the democratic process. [applause]

This must also be understood in the same manner by those who continue to believe in authoritarianism, and by all those who believe that conflicts must be solved through the use of force.

I want to reaffirm with all my energy that I believe in the right of freedom of expression, because I am the first to be convinced of the benefits of that right. I thus do not disapprove of the demonstration staged in front of this historical building, but I do categorically condemn the abuses committed. No one has the right to take justice into his own hands. Democracy does not admit provocateurs. [applause]

We have been elected by the people to work for the people, and understanding this, the almost 60 days of my term in office have not passed in vain. Congressmen are aware that my first step was to guarantee the essential foreign support for our projects.

We will not be able to achieve very much for the good of the fatherland without international cooperation during the next five years of government.

This message does not attempt to account for our accomplishments. But I want, honorable legislators, to share with you the satisfaction of knowing that in two months we have negotiated credits worth over $1 billion with friendly countries and multilateral organizations. We have obtained new lines of credit with the Inter-American Development Bank. We have reestablished relations with the World Bank and we have begun promising cooperation with the IMF—all for the benefit of our people.

These new resources will be invested in education, health, agriculture, housing, and infrastructure works. For example, in Washington a few days ago we formalized the first credit for $53 million that will be used in education.

This is how we work for the country, for our fellow countrymen. We do this without seeking any internal tutelage, and least of all, any external tutelage. We need the support of Congress to make sure that all our efforts on behalf of our fellow countrymen will not be wasted. We must resort to our civic convictions and convince ourselves that there is only one path to progress: The path of national harmony.

A basic chapter within this framework of mutual cooperation is the freedom to chose those responsible for our political and financial policies. This is the case of the Central Bank board of directors, the composition of which is being studied by the Senate. I hope this important decision will soon be confirmed by this house, as foreseen in the Constitution.

This is an excellent opportunity to request from the honorable deputies special diligence in the approval of the agreement on river transportation for the Parana-Paraguay waterway that was signed by our country and the Republics of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, and Uruguay seeking to foster our respective developments.

Governability demands a mutual understanding of the functions of the three state branches. Without it we will be unable to face our greater national problems, and least of all defeat other types of violence, which acts silently, ubiquitously, every day. I am talking about the misery in suburban neighborhoods and rural areas, the lack of jobs, hospitals without physicians or medicines, and children without schools. The solution to these problems is not only an executive branch commitment; it is a commitment of our entire society, particularly of this Congress, and all political parties and movements.

We need to defeat misery, which is the real enemy of our people. The governability pact, which is being currently discussed, seeks to unite people's efforts in this struggle. I invite all those who have these common objectives and goals to participate in this pact, which is open to all social groups, in order to work together in this crusade for progress in freedom.

Honorable senators and deputies: Citizens have the right to complain in a democracy. I urge you to have patience and to understand the people's pressures, which are in accordance with the new era in which we live. They demand what is just: Our general well-being. Let us show them tolerance, because at the very end—and this is an intimate belief I want to share with you honorable legislators—Paraguay is not anyone's propriety. Paraguay is, and should always be, everyone's work within a framework of truth, justice, and freedom. I thank you for this opportunity. Thank you.

Interior Minister Will Not Resign Over Incident at Congress

PY1210210893 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 12 Oct 93 p 4

[Text] Interior Minister Carlos Podesta has admitted the Interior Ministry's responsibility in the attack that a hoard of drunken Colorado Party members perpetrated against Congress. He added, however, that he will not resign, because he believes that at no time has the president lost confidence in him. Podesta added that at the time of the attack on Congress, former Police Chief German Franco Vargas said to him "mission accomplished, mission accomplished, Mr. Minister," as if implying that the legislators were safe.

Podesta said he read the statement made by Vice President Angel Roberto Seifart, who said that the Interior Ministry was partly to blame for the slow police reaction in safeguarding Congress and legislators.

Asked about this statement, Podesta said: "He is right. I cannot deny that domestic security falls under the jurisdiction of my office."

[ABC COLOR] To whom do you attribute this negligence?

[Podesta] I believe you can interpret this situation however you see fit.

[ABC COLOR] Was the removal of the police chief your suggestion, or was it the president's decision?

[Podesta] It was the president's personal decision. He informed me about it at his residence at about noon on Saturday.

[ABC COLOR] The police commander was ousted. From the ethical point of view, do you admit your responsibility in this situation? Will you tender your resignation, or something of the sort?

[Podesta] The president has decided to remove the National Police commander. Quite frankly, I can categorically assert that had I felt that the president has lost confidence in my work, I would have tendered my resignation, but this is not the case. The minute I see that the president experiences the slightest loss of confidence in my work, I will resign.

[ABC COLOR] The vice president has attributed some responsibility to you.

[Podesta] The vice president did not say that. I urge you to speak to him, or to read the different press articles. What the vice president said is that these recent events fall under the jurisdiction of the Interior Ministry. And this is correct. But all my superiors and the members of my cabinet are aware that I acted correctly. Therefore... well, what else can I say?

[ABC COLOR] Is it true that it was Police Chief Franco Vargas who informed you about the demonstration?

[Podesta] He was not the one to inform me. I informed him about it. When I called Franco Vargas, he was on his way from the airport. He even told me: "Mission accomplished, mission accomplished, Mr. Minister."

During his chat with journalists, Podesta added: "I learned about the incident in front of the Congress building at 0610 of that day (7 October), when [Chamber of Deputies President] 'Pancho' de Vargas phoned me at home. I started to adopt measures from that very moment. What occurred in front of Congress was not a demonstration, or a march, it was disastrous. It was an act of vandalism."

He later added that there are no police troops at Police Headquarters. "To bring in the blue helmets they have to be equipped and transported. If you study the time that elapsed between when the decision was made and its implementation, you will see that we acted properly and quickly."

Lastly, Podesta said that had he disagreed with Franco Varga's removal, he would not have signed the corresponding decree.

Colorado Party Faction Criticizes 'Governability Pact'

PY1210205493 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 10 Oct 93 p 5

[Text] The Authentic Colorado Popular Party [Partido Popular Colorado Autentico] today disclosed its stance on the governability pact. In a communique it reports that the pact is merely a project subtly drafted by the U.S. Department of State.

The party's leadership is made up of leaders who left the Colorado Popular Movement (MOPOCO). It is headed by Emilio Reynal.

The party's first split occurred in 1989. The second crisis was prompted by the departure of a group headed by Miguel Angel Gonzalez Casabianca.

The Authentic Colorado Popular Party believes that the plan sponsored by [opposition leader Domingo] Laino, following the transition period, has a single goal. It involves "urgently" implementing in Paraguay "privatizations, symbolizing a neoliberal policy based on a market economy," the communique adds.

The communique notes that this pilot plan was initially implemented in Bolivia, then in Argentina, and is currently being implemented in Brazil and in other countries.

In another passage, the communique indicates: "The results have been tragic for national interests. Large state-owned enterprises are being sold at ridiculous prices, and basic price estimates are grossly unrealistic."

Peru

Fujimori Presents 2d Guzman Letter

PA1010035293 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0131 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Statement by President Alberto Fujimori, including video recording of imprisoned Shining Path leader Abimael Guzman reading text of second letter addressed to President Fujimori, at the Government Palace in Lima on 9 October; from the "Direct Line" newscast; broadcast in progress—live or recorded]

[Text] ....an explanation of the reasons that led him and the Shining Path [SL] to the armed struggle, violence, and destruction.

[Begin Guzman video recording] Mr. Alberto Fujimori, president of the Republic:

Mr. President, again we address you with the desire to add to our request the following considerations. At the beginning of the 1960's we worked to prepare the beginning of the armed struggle in a society like Peru's, semifeudal, semicolonial, with bureaucratic capitalism and a state system of pseudobourgeois democracy and outdated parasitic political parties, a society whose oppression and exploitation for centuries before had brought the people hunger, poverty, ignorance, and backwardness, constraining its productive forces and preventing the development and democracy that the masses demand and need.

Our action developed, breaking off with the so-called left and especially combating revisionism whose parties are nothing but minor partners of the left and supporters of the old system. The people's war that we began in May 1980 emerged and developed in that decade against that prevailing order. It first faced the Belaunde government, which was based on the alliance of the Popular Action Party and the Popular Christian Party, and subsequently it faced the government of Alan Garcia, which was based on the APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance]. [end video recording]

[Fujimori] Guzman is undoubtedly pointing out the already known defects of Peruvian society which in no way justify the bloodshed during 13 years of systematic violation of human rights and material losses of approximately $25 billion. There were other paths to change Peru and effectively struggle against neglect, exploitation, and poverty. Proof of this is that my government is achieving national reconstruction without bloodshed and fanaticism and with the majority support of the population. Let us continue listening, however, to the explanations of the SL leader:

[Begin Guzman video recording] You then took office and events show that your administration has achieved objective advances, especially after 5 April 1992. One could clearly see this situation coming as a necessity for the Peruvian state. As a result, the bases for the economic process have been laid and the reorganization of the state has been carried out. In what more directly refers to us, beginning on that date and under your political leadership, your administration has implemented a systematic and coherent strategy in various fields, especially in the area of intelligence.

Real success has been achieved, especially with the capturing of cadres and leaders, including us, the signatories. It evidently constitutes the most important success achieved by the Peruvian state under your leadership in these 13 years of war. The road you are paving is, thereby, favorably being laid out. [end video recording]

[Fujimori] Undoubtedly, it is very important to note that those who held a threat over the Peruvian state for more than a decade are now recognizing that they are being defeated by a determined government, which is drafting a new, coherent, and efficient strategy. The friends of the government are not saying it; it is none other than Abimael Guzman and Elena Iparraguirre, who as leaders of the Shining Path war are feeling the effects of the measures we took in April 1992 against Shining Path's operational and organizational capabilities. The measures are proving their effectiveness in reverting the trends that were leading the country to chaos.

[Begin Guzman video recording] We believe that new, complex, and serious problems have arisen lately. The Communist Party of Peru has had to deal with fundamental leadership issues. It is precisely there where our party has received the heaviest blow. The leadership issue is, therefore, a decisive factor and, in our case, it will not be resolved soon. That is why there will be repercussions in the development of the people's war. Under the current circumstances the party and its leadership will have to make new and important decisions. Just as we fought to initiate the people's war, today with the same firmness and determination we must fight to reach a peace agreement. This is a historic decision that cannot be postponed, especially when peace has become a need of the people, the

nation, and Peruvian society as a whole. These are the reasons, Mr. President, for which in our previous and present requests, we ask you to hold talks that can lead to a peace agreement which can lead to the conclusion of the war, which the country has been facing for more than 13 years. Please bear these requests in mind and agree to fulfill them.

[Issued] Naval-Military Prison in Callao, 6 October 1993.

[Signed] Abimael Guzman Reynoso, Elena Iparraguirre Revoredo. [end video recording]

[Fujimori] My government, as the media said yesterday, has not changed the position it has adopted since the beginning. There are no negotiations but conversations. Channels are being opened with the Shining Path's political leadership to find, if possible, instruments that can accelerate the peace process. Abimael Guzman and Elena Iparraguirre will have to make a direct, clear call to their followers to turn over their weapons and subject themselves to the laws of the Republic to achieve this purpose.

The charges that are being filed against Shining Path members in different parts of the country show that Shining Path has suffered a strong blow and that our goal to attain peace before my term is over is realistic and objective.

Thank you very much once again for the support I have received from you, my dear fellow countrymen, to continue with the giant task of rebuilding the country. Good evening.

Guzman Talks To Continue

PA0810202993 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1906 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Lima, 7 Oct (EFE)—President Alberto Fujimori announced today that the Peruvian Government will continue to hold talks with imprisoned Shining Path [SL] Leader Abimael Guzman "until he surrenders, without negotiations or concessions." Fujimori stated that "the doors of dialogue can never be closed," and that his government will continue to talk with Guzman because he is "the only valid interlocutor and unquestionable leader of the political directorate" of his organization.

The first outcome of these talks was Guzman's recent request to "negotiate" peace with the government after 13 years of war against Peruvian democracy. Approximately 25,000 people have died in this war.

Fujimori said that a video conveying his rejection of Guzman's request was shown this week by government emissaries to the SL leader and to Elena Iparraguirre, SL's second in command, in their prison cells at the naval base in the Port of Callao.

Fujimori insisted on recognizing Guzman as the only SL interlocutor despite the fact that many analysts consider that, because he is imprisoned, the SL leader no longer has influence over his organization. Fujimori's position was confirmed by the SL clandestine newspaper, EL DIARIO, which published an editorial in its latest issue stating that Guzman is still the leader of his organization and is the "axis of the party's unity."

Fujimori has refused, because of security reasons, to disclose the identities of the emissaries who are talking with Guzman, and has only said that they are officials of the National Intelligence Service (SIN). It is rumored, however, that Vladimiro Montesinos, a high-ranking SIN official whom the opposition accuses of having organized the "death squads" in charge of killing those suspected of being terrorists, is the main emissary.

Fujimori has noted that dialogue is not the same as negotiation, "because negotiating is giving something in exchange for something else, as in a pact, and no concessions are being made here." Fujimori stated that he hopes Guzman "will follow through" on his stated willingness to reestablish peace and that he will issue, by virtue of this, a call to his followers to lay down their weapons and to surrender. Fujimori emphasized that "Guzman should do so if he truly intends to prevent even greater bloodshed."

200 Terrorists Repent

PA1010153593 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 10 Oct 93

[From the "Direct Line" newscast]

[Text] Daniel Espichan Tumay, special prosecutor for terrorist crimes, has said that approximately 200 Shining Path members have sought protection under the Repentance Law since President Alberto Fujimori revealed the existence of leader Abimael Guzman's first letter.

[Begin recording] [Espichan) I am sure that, if the first one brought results, the effect of the second will be greater. Copies will have to be distributed throughout the country so all terrorists can see for themselves what Guzman is doing and understand that the only remaining alternative is the one offered by the government through the Repentance Law. The government has extended its hand and told them it will help everyone who repents. I think this will result in a greater number of repentant terrorists.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you have figures on the number of repentant terrorists since Guzman's first letter?

[Espichan] There were 600 repentant terrorists before receiving the first letter. This figure was increased by approximately 200 throughout Peru. [end recording]

Riot Police Engage Students at San Marcos University

PA0810193593 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Report by Enrique Vidal; from the "Newspaper of the Airwaves" newscast]

[Text] Student disturbances broke out at San Marcos University when a group of students attempted to organize a protest march to express their disagreement with the proposals to abolish free education included in the new

constitution project. In addition, the students attempted to express their overall opposition to the draft constitution.

At this very moment riot police have surrounded the entire campus grounds. The students have been throwing rocks along Venezuela Avenue and have proceeded to block the streets leading into and out of the campus grounds. Army units already inside the campus grounds have opted to take up positions on the roofs of the School of Arts, the Economic Sciences building, and the Electronic Engineering School.

Police units are standing by outside the university grounds and are throwing tear gas into the university. At this time, traffic has been completely disrupted in this area, as well as on (German Amezaga) Avenue which surrounds the San Marcos University. In addition, there are traffic problems resulting from the students who are entrenched in the Arts and Social Science buildings while police continue to throw tear gas.

Someone will have to try to restrain the police soon since the tear gas is starting to hurt not only the university students but also youngsters going to the high schools located near the university.

Government Approves Human Rights Council Regulations

PA1210163693 Lima Radio Programas del Peru in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] The executive branch has approved the National Human Rights Council regulations that comprise three sections, five chapters, and 34 articles. The executive decree indicates the National Human Rights Council will be chaired by the justice minister, while other council members will be representatives from the Attorney General's Office, the Interior and Defense Ministries, and the Catholic Church. In addition, the council will also include one representative from nongovernment institutions devoted to the defense of human rights and one from the Peruvian Promotion Commission. The Judicial Branch's duties will include work to promote, oversee, coordinate, report, and advise on the upholding and protection of fundamental human rights.

Fujimori Interview on Government Efforts

PA1110234493 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Interview with Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori by Fernando Flores Arauz in Lima; from the "Reply" program—live]

[Text] [Flores] Good evening, Mr. President.

[Fujimori] Good evening. Thanks for the invitation. This is my first opportunity to appear at the station.

[Flores] And we expect that it will not be the last.

[Fujimori] We will be back.

[Flores] The poll conducted on 24 and 25 September, prior to Abimael Guzman's request for peace, indicates a clear, overwhelming majority in favor of yes, virtually twice the number of no's. Some think this edge in favor of yes could be expanded in the next poll regarding Guzman. What do you have to say?

[Fujimori] I think the preference in favor of yes will be increasing as the people become familiar with the Constitution's conceptual framework and the benefits this would yield for the economy, the administration of the state, and the people's general well-being. If we disregard the number of those who abstained, the ratio is more like 66 yes to 33 no.

[Flores] What ratio do you expect, Mr. President?

[Fujimori] I think the ratio will become even higher.

[Flores] Maybe 70 percent?

[Fujimori] I think that is a realistic enough figure.

[Flores] I have said this was the ratio before Guzman's request for peace and that we think the ratio could increase. How are the talks, Mr. President? Have your delegates kept talking with him?

[Fujimori] There is only one delegate.

[Flores] Can you tell us who he is?

[Fujimori] [Words indistinct] I will not reveal the name yet. Maybe one of these days I will release a picture of him, taken from behind. Then you people can draw your own conclusions. Talks have continued with him. From time to time, he is visited and informed. In turn, he gives interesting bits of information, which have been gradually compiled and processed.

[Flores] Are the Shining Path terrorists likely to lay down their arms, Mr. President? Some of us think about the possibility of modifying or toning down the government stand.

[Fujimori] This in no way means we should soften our position, claim victory, or lower our guard. On the contrary, in a situation like this we should be even more alert and more careful to prevent any unusual actions. We must make the Shining Path and the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement people realize that there exist laws that are quite favorable for those who repent—in other words, for those who deliver their weapons or provide information to identify other Shining Path members.

[Flores] As long as the repentant person is not among those sentenced to life in prison, according to the law?

[Fujimori] Of course.

[Flores] Will this position be maintained?

[Fujimori] Obviously this will be maintained.

[Flores] No way, it can be changed?

[Fujimori] In the case of the talks with Abimael Guzman, he is providing this type of information. He wrote that first letter knowing that his sentence would be neither pardoned nor reduced.

[Flores] You believe, Mr. President—you have said it—that Abimael Guzman is really the national commander, the political commander, and Shining Path's valid interlocutor. In El Callejon de Guaira, I believe, there has been a small outbreak. It is being said that persons there are acting in teams. Do you think that if there is progress in the talks with Abimael Guzman, these people will put down their weapons. How do you view these talks, considering that you surely are informed daily about them and that to a certain extent you lead them?

[Fujimori] I hope that Abimael Guzman will address his militants to clearly tell them what the position of the commander of Shining Path's political directorate is, so that they put down their weapons. I view it this way. For example, he should explicitly say that the execution of the sixth grand military plan is no longer in effect. If he were to say this—I am not saying this will happen—then this would have a definitive impact. Issuing a document of that nature would represent a turning away from his rigid and inflexible position of one year ago.

[Flores] He senses that he has lost the war. The other day I read a statement by a prestigious retired general, Arias Graziani, in which he notes that the Shining Path has already lost the war and that it has no alternative but to surrender its weapons.

[Fujimori] That is right.

[Flores] Maybe Abimael Guzman also sees it this way.

[Fujimori] Of course. Abimael Guzman is a very intelligent man. We have to acknowledge that. And so is Elena Iparraguirre. I suppose they have adopted this decision in the framework of their Marxist-Leninist ideology.

[Flores] Mr. President, I suspect that you are able to acknowledge this brilliance not only because you have read his articles and know about his proclamations but perhaps because you have held personal contacts with Abimael Guzman.

[Fujimori] Not personal conversations, but I have had reports on his position on this matter and on how he views the future of the country and the Shining Path. He has made an all-encompassing analysis of the situation. This was not done in the letter I have reported on.

[Flores] The letter is a result of that analysis.

[Fujimori] It is some sort of culmination, a summary. I hope that he maintains this position. If he really wants peace, then he will have to continue taking these kinds of steps. The important fact is, I believe, that he has already taken the most difficult step on this road. This is no small step forward. He has taken the most critical step forward. In this sense....

[Flores, interrupting] I believe that polls will mirror this situation somehow. Mr. President, it has been said for years that Cox Beuzeville had no ties to the Shining Path and that his arrest and current imprisonment is unjust. Do you have any information on Cox Beuzeville?

[Fujimori] There have always been doubts about his involvement with the Shining Path. With regard to such talks and reports and based on information from Abimael Guzman himself, I can flatly report—let's have the camera show this. Here is a banner.

[Flores] It is red, of the Communist Party of Peru.

[Fujimori] Of course. The handwriting here is that of Abimael Guzman. You can see the same traits. Following the first Congress of the Communist Party of Abimael Guzman, this document was signed on a Central Committee rank basis. Here is the entire directorship: Gonzalo; here is Nora, his first wife; Miriam; Feliciano. Nora is gone. There are now Gonzalo, Miriam, Feliciano, and the three of the directorship.

[Flores] [words indistinct]

[Fujimori] Yes, Ramirez. Ramirez Durand. Cox Beuzeville is here.

[Flores] Comrade Remigio.

[Fujimori] Comrade Remigio. The signatures are theirs. Following the meeting, Abimael signed and then everybody signed also.

[Flores] This is crushing evidence.

[Fujimori] He was part of the Central Committee. It was not me who said it. It was Abimael.

[Flores] Mr. President, I would like to mention a very current subject. You recently returned from the United States and I understand you will depart in a few days, on 14 October, this time for Chile, where you will stay three days. Your policy toward our neighbors has been very aggressive, strictly speaking. I would like to discuss foreign policy, which the president of the Republic himself determines by order of the Constitution. What can you tell us about your recent trip to the United States? What can Peru expect from this trip?

[Fujimori] Look, we have done the work of ants reaching up to the various levels of persons who have decision-making power or are influential in U.S. circles, not only political but entrepreneurial, which is very important for Peru. For instance, we met with former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who is very influential. He and I met with some 12 U.S. figures. During the meeting we reported on our country's true situation and perspectives. These persons listened with great interest. I think this is a good indicator because journalists, businessmen, and Mr. Kissinger were there. My presentation was greatly appreciated.

[Flores] Some members of the opposition, however, say Peru, which has been repaying its foreign debt and is seeking reincorporation into the international financial system, is repaying much more than it is receiving, in practical terms. Is this true?

[Fujimori] Yes. The debt accrual has been tremendous. Let us bear in mind that a large portion of this foreign debt was not repaid in 1983. Ten years have elapsed. We had been

handed a debt equivalent to $1,000 per person. I keep repeating that every child born....

[Flores, interrupting] Comes with his bread under his arm?

[Fujimori] No, with a $1,000 debt on his shoulders. If to this you add the $1,000 worth of harm inflicted on every Peruvian, the situation becomes disastrous. Why does Peru have to be reincorporated into the international financial community? Because we require loans, not only for investment projects, but so the entrepreneurs can have the sufficient guarantees and security so they can invest in the country and so we can negotiate under better terms. For instance, debt write-off was often mentioned before. But it is impossible to write-off all debts, only for a sizable portion thereof, once we have normalized our relations with the international financial community.

[Flores] We must repay first. We used to withhold the payment of our obligations and everyday stuck their tongues out at our creditors.

[Fujimori] In this bilateral negotiation we are holding with some countries, which indeed are considering the possibility of writing off our debts, we discussed reducing a sizable portion of the debt. And we will continue to negotiate under favorable terms. The amount we have earmarked for the amortization of the debt is tremendous.

[Flores] I have read reports saying that so far we have amortized $2.278 billion as part of the normalization process.

[Fujimori] And the sum that we received is much less than that. The question is this: What should our policy be, other than the one followed by this government, regarding reincorporation? What other alternatives are there? We have had a remarkable example in the negotiation with the Paris Club. I challenge any economist to propose another alternative for the negotiation we have conducted with the Paris Club for a $6-billion debt. I think it would have been impossible to do it differently.

[Flores] We were speaking, Mr. President, about foreign policy, about Peruvian international relations. We know that your government has given priority to maintaining good relations with neighboring countries. Our approaches to Bolivia have been successful, and you have been invited to Chile, where you will soon go on a three-day visit. What is the purpose of that trip and what proposals will you make? Surely the Lima Convention will come up?

[Fujimori] The visit will be in the framework of the Rio Group. It is not an official visit by the Peruvian president to Chile, thus the Lima Convention is not on the agenda...

[Flores, interrupting] Excuse me, will you take the opportunity to discuss the topic?

[Fujimori] Indeed. I have spoken with President Aylwin about the matter at every available opportunity. Relations are extraordinarily cordial. The Rio Group topics will focus on democratization and antipoverty programs, essentially all current issues.

[Flores] Speaking of neighboring countries and border relations, a few days ago the international wire services reported that the Ecuadoran foreign minister, I think, proposed that both countries should eliminate the use of force as a means of solving not only border problems but any other issue between the countries. Do you agree with that proposal?

[Fujimori] The Ecuadoran foreign minister made the proposal at the United Nations, and we are studying it. In practice, we are following a policy of detente and a reduction of border war forces based on the good relations between Peru and bordering countries. In other words, we are already doing it. In Peru's case, a corollary to this policy is that it allows us to concentrate all our troops on the land where we live; in other words, on our struggle against terrorism. That is why I am unable to evaluate what the Ecuadoran foreign minister said, but we are headed in that direction, towards an arms reduction. The principle is basic to Latin American development.

[Flores] I agree. Is the Ecuadoran president still going to visit Peru?

[Fujimori] He has not officially confirmed yet, but I hope he will...

[Flores, interrupting] Does he intend to?

[Fujimori] He does indeed. I have visited Ecuador three times, and that in itself is a record. We, however, have still not been able to receive and welcome the Ecuadoran president.

[Flores] Mr. President, regarding that same issue and the Lima Convention and Chinchorro issues, do you think some changes could be made if these sectors' constructive criticisms were acknowledged?

[Fujimori] Yes. I think we are quite willing, and there is a good atmosphere for those details to be gradually taken into consideration. I do not think there is any ...

[Flores, interrupting] Especially regarding the administration of the dock and the Chinchorro issue.

[Fujimori] That's right.

[Flores] There is willingness and resolve.

[Fujimori] I perceive this resolve.

[Flores] Do you share that resolve, Mr. President?

[Fujimori] Quite obviously.

[Flores] Now I have some questions about the economy.

[Fujimori] Of course.

[Flores] We received the good news that September's inflation index was 1.6, considerably lower than recent times. Do you expect to end the year with approximately 50 percent inflation?

[Fujimori] Yes, it should be between 40 and 46 or 48 percent. We should not exceed 50 percent.

[Flores] Nevertheless, if we look at other figures that are also taken from exchange sources, we will see that the minimum vital income between September 1992 and September 1993 has dropped by 32 percent. Does that mean that this unquestionably successful program of economic adjustment and stabilization, which has defeated the tremendous hyperinflation you inherited from the previous government, is being carried out with the people's cooperation, effort, and sacrifice?

[Fujimori] There can be no doubt about it. Regarding the minimum vital income, I must say that only 2 to 3 percent of the population has an income at that level.

[Flores] That is an index.

[Fujimori] Of course, it is an index, but we must begin to understand that the state does not fix that minimum vital income. It is fixed by economic activity, by the very market mechanism. If the minimum vital income were a little freer it would not be at those levels.

[Flores] I have a question, Mr. President. I have been looking at the polls, at the figures. The cost of the adjustment, which is essential to the country, is borne primarily by the lower-income sectors. How do you expect to have continued popular support? How do you interpret what is happening in Peru?

[Fujimori] There is an awareness in Peru of the medium-term. We are not thinking only of the immediate. Some people might say the Chinaman [El Chino; reference to Fujimori] has really tightened our belts...

[Flores, interrupting] But they can see the light at the end of the tunnel.

[Fujimori] Of course. But it is not only the light; they can see their children's future. That is the interesting part of it. Foreign investments are already coming in, which is a good sign. Think about it. When has Peru received $800 million in a single year? This is history in the making.

[Flores] What has happened with the Peruvian Iron Mines Enterprise, China's investments, and our increased production is quite impressive.

[Fujimori] That's right. Production is being doubled.

[Flores] I wish that were so in every case.

[Fujimori] There are many cases. I can mention fisheries, where $64 million have been invested and we are now exporting fish meal to Colombia. In Cajamarca, the Yanacocha gold mines are being exploited with an investment of $150 million. This project is now providing permanent employment for approximately 500 people. These investments create the feeling that our future is being secured.

[Flores] That the future will be different?

[Fujimori] I do not want to discuss that [laughs], but the least I can say is that the future will be better. That is the explanation. Meanwhile, despite the social program's limitations, we have already fulfilled visible projects for the poor sectors of the population. Look at the poor neighborhoods in the provinces.

[Flores] They were always [words indistinct]. Not only now but always.

[Fujimori] Always.

[Flores] The opposition says you are saying this now because you are campaigning.

[Fujimori] No, the problem is that they cannot see where our needs lie. Look, for example, at the progress we have made with the "Lets Go On" [Sigo] program. I would characterize it as an aggressive program to build schools, aqueducts, and drainage systems and to produce electricity. Recently I put the Army in charge of heavy machinery modules that will improve conditions.

Go see, for example, La Boca del Diablo in Huscar, a shantytown, I am sure those people are watching the program, where one could not travel along the routes. Now, as of one or two weeks ago, you can go over there. Small buses, fuel trucks, and so on can now enter the town. There is a substantial improvement in several shantytowns. We are implementing these improvements as far as we can. I have eight engineer teams working on this. If that boat had not sunk yesterday in front of [word indistinct]; do you remember? Then we would have had 13 additional teams working.

[Flores] Mr. President, who finances these investments and....

[Fujimori, interrupting] These are financed with Treasury funds.

[Flores] Part is financed with Treasury funds and part with the Armed Forces.

[Fujimori] No, this is financed exclusively with....

[Flores, Fujimori, at the same time] [Words indistinct]

[Fujimori] With little funds, we get big results. You know that the Armed Forces are not charging salaries or an extra bonus for this work; they are not making any additional charges. They open up the roads; we just have to supply them with fuel. The heavy equipment, of course, has been purchased by the government.

[Flores] Mr. President, I believe there is consensus among the economists and the financial experts that the decisive springboard for reactivating economic growth, for the nation's socioeconomic growth, must be the fostering of and decisive increase of exports. This is done in other nations, as in Asia for example. Do you believe in this and can exports be encouraged with the current exchange rate, as theoretically it is below its parity? Is it very much below its parity?

[Fujimori] Before exporting, one must analyze, for the case of Peru, on which pillars this is based. We had to fight hyperinflation. With the hyperinflation we had, even 2

percent is too high, for an economic reactivation process and for investment promotion, we have had to reduce that inflation. The other pillar is the pacification process. Exports.... [pauses] The increase in exports will follow the utilization of the nation's installed industrial capacity as well as from new foreign investments. New investments and reinvestment by our local industrialists would not be favored if the terrorist climate prevailed. Now we are in conditions to foster these investments.

[Flores] We are in better conditions to....

[Fujimori, interrupting] We have an approximately 2-percent inflation rate, less than 2 percent. Let us hope it remains at that level. We have a climate of security, of trust, and an economic framework that encourages investments.

[Flores] I do not want to repeat Belmont's words, but are we going to start the second phase, regarding the government's reactivation policy?

[Fujimori] I am not speaking in terms of government policy. In terms of pacification, we are definitely entering a second phase; that is, of consolidation.

[Flores] Mr. President, I had forgotten, and I would like to go back to, now that we talked about reactivation and exports, Peru's integration into the Pacific Basin. There are some who believe, myself included, that Peru is privileged with being the platform or bridge that connects the planet's two basins which have the greatest resources. I am talking about the Amazon Basin and the Pacific Basin. Peru is in the middle of the two; therefore, it can communicate with the two. Has Peru's integration to both sides been given priority in the international policy outlined?

[Fujimori] It is obvious that those numerous trips that I have made to the Pacific Basin nations are a clear reflection, the best reflection of what our goals are. On the Amazon side and toward the Atlantic, because Peru is situated precisely in the middle of these two important basins, we have always maintained traditional links. We must strengthen, increase this investment-trade-tourist flow. Everyone, and not just underdeveloped nations, is looking toward the Pacific Basin. The most powerful nations are looking at that market. Imagine what South Korea represents with that industrial production in a nation with such a high per capita earning. We have seen this firsthand.

There is also the People's Republic of China, which has grown extraordinarily. These are areas where foreign investments and capitalism are moving in strongly.

[Flores] This means also that we have much competition. This is another point. We are going to have much competition as receptors of investments.

[Fujimori] Right, but, comparatively speaking, we have an edge. For example, our geographic position within the Andean Group and within what could become a grand Latin American market. We are in the very geographic center. There is also our natural resources wealth.

[Flores] Fisheries, mining, oil.

[Fujimori] No country can beat us in this regard.

[Flores] That's right. Food is [words indistinct], and we have plenty of that.

[Fujimori] Of course. That is right.

[Flores] I want to ask you something. We have seen poll results, I am stepping out of the economic issue, and the yes answers are twice as many as the no's. Experts believe that this will produce more economic stability and trust in Peru's economy, in and out of Peru. Potential investors think, however, I can say this because I was out of the country recently and I made some contacts with investors, that President Fujimori must personally give signals to enhance this stability, that he should publicly say whether he will be a presidential candidate in 1995. What can you tell us, Mr. President?

[Fujimori] This has its good and bad points.

[Flores] We have seen that it has many good points.

[Fujimori] Foreign investors could see security, trust, credibility, stability, but here we would be producing a political earthquake. This is not the time for that kind of announcement. We are still two years away from that.

[Flores] But do you have any intention, a healthy intention, in that direction? Are you at least studying that possibility?

[Fujimori] Look, I plan every step I take.

[Flores] This means that you have considered this step. Thank you for your statement, Mr. President.

[Fujimori, laughing] No, no, do not get ahead of me! My intuition has much influence in decisions like the one you mentioned. It is not that I read my horoscope or have my cards read. No.

[Flores] Giovanni Cuero, an Italian writer who lives in Peru, has just published a book that claims that your political strategy is based on an Oriental game of Chinese origin, the (Valvo), which demands much intelligence.

[Fujimori] It is a delicate game that involves moving forward.

[Flores] Is there any truth to this?

[Fujimori] No. I believe that in politics I use chess. Peruvian politics are not that complicated. These are a fairly simple people, although there are exceptions.

[Flores] You find them simple. This means that you do not have good rivals in the opposition?

[Fujimori] This has been evident; for example, when the question arose as to whether to have a total or a partial referendum, the opposition insisted on a total referendum.

[Flores] It would have been more suitable for them to have a partial referendum.

[Fujimori] Of course. I could not understand their gambit. Let them have it their way.

[Flores] Parties will not always be easy, Mr. President. Maybe some deliverer like you will emerge somewhere and put you in trouble.

[Fujimori] I am not saying that I will run for reelection.

[Flores] Mr. President you have said that you have planned your steps.

[Fujimori] Not yet. I can tell you that good fortune has always been on my side. That is the way it has been all my life. The moment will come.

[Flores] You have given us hints but no precise information. How difficult it is to get that from you! I had set that goal for myself! Nevertheless you have given us hints, Mr. President. Various sectors are concerned with the slowness of the privatization process. What can you tell us, Mr. President.

[Fujimori] I can tell you that we are safeguarding the country's national interests.

[Flores] You are not giving the country away.

[Fujimori] Of course. When I make a sale, I obtain top benefits, not only because of the price but because of the effects that ensue. If we had sold Peru's telephone company 18 months ago we would not have received half of what we are going to get now. Now, with a pacified, almost pacified country, in the current economic framework, with the atmosphere of trust that investors enjoy, we will probably obtain three or four times more than what we were going to get one year ago.

[Flores] Has the situation been corrected? Errors were committed in the case of the Popular Bank. That privatization was handled very poorly, and it ended up being liquidated due to poor management by the privatization committee. Not all has been perfect.

[Fujimori] Right. Not all has been perfect, but that bank had a very large debt.

[Flores] Yes, but the committee should have acted more quickly because current accounts, the clients, are main assets.

[Fujimori] I do not doubt there have been errors, but in general terms, management has been good. Now we are squeezing juice from our state enterprises. This is why we are able to do the social work we are financing.

[Flores] How much of the funds derived from privatization will be dedicated to the social compensation program?

[Fujimori] Not just on social compensation programs but on investments in general. I believe that in 1993 this should amount to $500 million, a considerable amount.

[Flores] Mr. President, we read today a statement from Caso Lay, the country's comptroller general. He complains that he does not have enough resources to efficiently accomplish his fiscal work. He says that 6 million soles are not enough.

[Fujimori] All the entities must work with a tight budget. If workers and businessmen are going through this period of sacrifices, public entities must also. No one is going to have an ideal budget or the best conditions. Objectives must be reached with budget limitations. There is no doubt about that.

[Flores] Everybody must tighten their belts.

[Fujimori] We are going through a real austere period to be able to lift the country.

[Flores] The opposition has said that the comptroller's office is not being given enough resources, because the regime is not interested in fiscal matters.

[Fujimori] This is typical political speculation.

[Flores] One last question, of a personal nature, if you don't mind. You must work at a hard pace. What are your activities? At what time to you get up? What do you do? At what time do you go to bed? Do you have time to read other than government matters?

[Fujimori] I have very disciplined habits. I usually go to bed at 0200 and get up at 0730. I always have breakfast with my children.

[Flores] There is a family dialogue at breakfast.

[Fujimori] At breakfast, lunch, and dinner, except during the days I am invited for interviews.

[Flores] We highly value this. This has been a habit in Lima.

[Fujimori] I unfailingly share these moments with my children.

[Flores] What do you read, in addition to government work?

[Fujimori] Little. I have read part of Abimael's book. I read also publications on economics, politics, and international politics. I am not reading novels.

[Flores] What would you like to do that you cannot do now?

[Fujimori] I am satisfied with my current life, especially because of the achievements that can be reached.

[Flores] What would you like to do as a ruler? What do you think has not been done properly? Cross your heart.

[Fujimori] At the macropolitical level, I think we have done much. I am satisfied in that regard. I cannot complain. The people have backed me in this effort. I cannot complain.

[Flores] We will see what happens on 31 October when formally we will have a referendum which, judging from the polls and from what the people are saying, will be a plebiscite for or against the government.

[Fujimori] This is happening because the reforms the government promoted for three years are included in the Constitution. Approving the Constitution means approving the work of the past three years of government.

[Flores] President Alberto Fujimori, on behalf of this television channel and personally, I thank you for your presence and for allowing us to discuss national and international matters.

[Fujimori] Thank you for your invitation. Good night.

France, Foreign Minister Signs Investment Agreement

PA1110153493 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 7 Oct 93

[From the "Direct Line" newscast]

[Text] Today in Paris, Foreign Minister Efrain Goldenberg and French Economy Minister Edmond Alphandery signed a reciprocal agreement to promote and protect investments. Goldenberg, who is heading a mission of Peruvian businessmen, signed the agreement on behalf of the Peruvian Government in a ceremony held during the first day of the mission's visit to France.

Fujimori To Attend Rio Group Summit in Chile

PA1310002993 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Oct 93

[From the "Direct Line" newscast]

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori did not attend the sixth summit meeting of the Rio Group, held in December 1992 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Our country was excluded from these political consultations in 1992 following the president's so-called self-inflicted coup of 5 April. During the yearly meeting of foreign ministers, which was held in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, Peru and Panama were readmitted as full members of the Rio Group. The foreign ministers made this decision after the election of the Democratic Constituent Congress election and Venezuela's withdrawal of its veto.

President Alberto Fujimori has confirmed that he will attend the Seventh Rio Group Summit, scheduled for Santiago, Chile from 14 to 16 October. Along with Fujimori, another 12 government leaders and chiefs of state will also participate. Although the meeting will seek a consensus on the more serious problems plaguing the region, economic integration between our countries will be the most important issue. For Peru, this event will mark its true political reentry into the most influential group in Latin America.

The announced presence of Bolivian President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada has created great anticipation in the Chilean capital. He will be the first Bolivian president to visit Chile in 40 years. The Bolivian demand to recover its access to the sea has always been at the forefront of the relations between the two countries. Nevertheless, they both know well that this forum does not discuss such bilateral issues.

Fujimori Optimistic About Lima Convention

PA1310003793 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Oct 93

[From the "Newspaper of the Airwaves" newscast]

[Text] Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori has expressed his confidence that an understanding will finally be reached on the Lima Convention, which was signed by the Chilean and Peruvian Governments to resolve pending issues regarding the Ancon Treaty. In an interview with the Chilean newspaper EL MERCURIO that was published in Santiago today, President Fujimori said the Lima Convention will help Peru and Chile end the arms buildup and overcome obstacles to the integration process.

President Fujimori said he will probably discuss the Lima Convention with Patricio Aylwin, his Chilean counterpart, during his visit to Santiago this morning to attend the Rio Group's Seventh Presidential Summit for Inter-American Consultations.

Editorial Examines U.S. Antinarcotics Policy Problem

PY0710144593 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 29 Sep 93 p A22

[Editorial: "Who is Your Partner, Uncle Sam?"]

[Text] From the United States' viewpoint, among the three Andean countries involved in drug trafficking, today Peru is the country that cooperates the least. It seems a waste of time to ask how the United States arrived at this unwritten conclusion, which is taken as a fact without any careful or critical analysis.

This viewpoint affects the way the United States allocates its aid to the three countries, as the largest amount goes to Colombia. This "resource allocation" is probably made following some quantitative indicators, of the type handled by bureaucracies everywhere, and which take into account, for instance, the number of kilograms of drugs seized, or police operations ending with the capture of individuals, or downings of light aircraft.

Added to all this is the qualitative question of the political decision to fight drug trafficking. Colombia possibly seizes the largest quantity of drugs, but this is natural because after all, it is in Colombia that most of the drugs are manufactured. The case is not the same if we consider the number of light planes seized, which is becoming increasingly higher on this side of the border.

Colombian drug traffickers have moved their operations, and the production of and trading in the raw materials for cocaine, more and more to the south, toward the territories of the Leticia triangle, the Huallaga valley, and increasingly southward. Drug traffickers are now intent on doing the same thing with a new business, which is immensely more profitable: poppies, the raw material for heroin production. The Colombian cartels want to introduce the new drug in America on a large scale. Looking at the

problem carefully, it is easy to see that it is just one more case of colonialist subordination of a national (or regional) economy to another.

Colombia does not have a monopoly on the political will to fight drug trafficking, which is expressed, for instance, in the control of a country's airspace and territory. In both cases, today, Peru is showing clear signs of progress, while Colombia still tolerates a constitutional legislation preventing the extradition of drug traffickers, despite acknowledging that the law was the result of drug traffickers' extortion against the Colombian state.

The Colombian economy, on the other hand, digests the drug money it receives, to the tune of no less than 10 percent of GDP, perfectly smoothly, without generating an oversupply of dollars that would depress the foreign exchange rate. The narco-dollars that enter Peru, however, at a rate that does not exceed 5 percent of GDP, provoke all kinds of disorders, overvaluing the Peruvian currency. This should be enough to show that Peruvian economy is not as dependent on narco-dollars as the Colombian economy is. It is not something we can be proud of, as it is not our accomplishment, but it is nevertheless a real fact.

The problem with the U.S. antinarcotics policy does not lie so much in the aid cuts but in how it distributes the aid it delivers. The same thing would occur if that aid were to be multiplied by 10, or were reduced to one-tenth of present values as a result of the country's domestic fiscal needs.

We Peruvians believe that if the United States were to look, as it should, at what it is doing, it would conclude that its most important partner today in the fight against narcotics among Andean countries is Peru; and that the share of the available aid, be it small or large, would inevitably and rapidly reflect the true priorities.

Uruguay

Army Commander in Chief Interviewed

PY1310013093 Montevideo EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO in Spanish 7 Oct 93 pp 6-7

[Interview with Lieutenant General Daniel Garcia, Army commander in chief, by Alfonso Lessa and Leandro Pauletti, not individually identified; place and date not given]

[Text] [EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] In what condition did you find the Army?

[Garcia] In good condition; in a normal, correct status. I began my task recently, and am still becoming acquainted with and studying many things. Following my way of thinking, I ordered an audit when I assumed this post, and I will do the same when I depart. I am trying to gain insight into all the aspects of such a large institution as the Army, with so many units in the interior of the country. I am therefore touring the interior in order to familiarize myself with what is happening in all the units, with the way they are operating, and with their requirements. The Army is playing a very important and consequential role, not only in national defense, but in cooperating with society in contributing to various projects. There are at times prejudices against the Army over past events, but now things are normal, and relations with the rest of society are normal. This can be noticed on the streets, everywhere. To a large extent this has been prompted by the way in which the Armed Forces have handed over power. In saying this I am not saying that I agree or disagree with the way in which the process was conducted, but at that time it was the best way possible.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] What is the economic situation? Mid-ranking officers were concerned over this issue...

[Garcia] But what are mid-ranking officers?

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] Those officers whose ranks are below that of a lieutenant colonel—that is, captains, majors, lieutenants.

[Garcia] In our country people talk about mid-ranking officers as if labeling them. There are those who use the expression mid-ranking as a sort of threat. If someone is saying that certain officers are concerned over a certain issue, fine, this may very well be, but don't use labels. What is more, it is not only mid-ranking officers but all of us who have been worried about the economic issue. With the new rendering of accounts we will now be experiencing the most important improvement in a long time. This will be the most significant improvement we have received in many years. It will not be enough, but it will actually be very important.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] Will new equipment be purchased?

[Garcia] In fact, materials that once belonged to the German Democratic Republic will soon be arriving. This is not, however, war materiel. It involves ambulances and trucks.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] Are the generals meeting periodically, as was the case during the tenure of former Army Commander in Chief Juan Rebollo?

[Garcia] No, I have not summoned them since assuming my post. This actually involves different management styles. Lieutenant General Rebollo was holding monthly meetings, but I prefer to summon them over specific issues and individually. I do not believe it necessary to keep a regular schedule of pre- established meetings. Moreover, the generals have a lot of work to do in each of their assignments. And furthermore, some of them are quite far away from Montevideo.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] Don't you think that many political leaders have a certain degree of inattentiveness and unawareness concerning the military issue?

[Garcia] I have actually been somewhat surprised by this, and I can confirm that the leaders who are supposed to be acquainted with this issue actually are acquainted with it. I believe that those who are responsible for the military issue are very well informed.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] Have there been any more summonses in the case of [Chilean chemist Eugenio] Berrios?

[Garcia] Proceedings continue in the courts of law. Colonel Hector Lluis was the last to be summoned.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] The one who returned to Chile.

[Garcia] Correct. The judge was asked if he required additional testimony from Col. Lluis and Captain (Eduardo) Radaelli, or if they could otherwise return to Chile and Mozambique, where they are discharging their duties. The judge responded that it was not necessary for them to remain in our country. They therefore returned to their assignments. I do not want anyone to harbor the slightest doubt about the respect that military personnel must have for legal and constitutional rules. We have conducted internal administrative investigations, gathering all possible information and testimony.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONONICO] Did you receive a new petition from General Fernan Amado requesting a court of honor in the espionage case?

[Garcia] No, no. You reported this, but it did not happen. For us the case is closed. No one in the Army is talking about this case. You may confirm this by talking with the troops or with officers.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] Will General Aguerrondo have a new assignment?

[Garcia] His assignment is as Antarctic Institute director.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] However, he already held that post simultaneously with his two last major assignments. Will he have another assignment?

[Garcia] I cannot say anything now, but there are always transfers, and you may rest assured that there will continue to be transfers as long as they are necessary. He will surely get another assignment.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] There was speculation on the possibility that Gen. Aguerrondo might be assigned to the United States.

[Garcia] I do not know about this.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] Did Gen. Juan Rebollo retire?

[Garcia] Yes, the same day he was discharged from his post. According to current rules, the Army commander in chief goes directly into retirement as soon as he is removed from his post. The same will happen in my case. And I am aware of the fact that this is a post involving political trustworthiness, a post that depends on the president of the Republic and the defense minister. I therefore am always prepared in the event that I lose this trustworthiness.

[Garcia] What news do you have about the project to restructure the Armed Forces?

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] In the beginning of this year the Army made a great introspective general analysis of all its organizational bases. As a result a plan has been submitted to the national defense minister, who in turn presented it to the president of the Republic. That plan has already been analyzed, both by the defense minister and by the president, and is now again in the hands of the minister, who told me he will send it to me within the next few days. The minister also told me about some questions and observations they had made.

When I receive that plan we are going to take it as a basis, together with the questions and doubts posed by the president and the minister, to begin other studies. We are also going to reconsider other matters. That initial plan included some solutions for any given moment.

I have also created some internal commissions, which are studying possible models for a more modern Army, for units with more effective equipment, greater mobility, greater firepower, and to seek definitively greater levels of modernization.

In any case, all studies will have to finally go through the nine-step test [prueba del nueve], which is the cost of each of those possible Army models. There are no free methods of modernization and equipping ourselves technologically. It is important to take this into account because of the idea that is usually taken up for public discussion, which is that of reducing the size of the Army and the investment in personnel in exchange for modernization.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] Isn't that possible?

[Garcia] This is a very profound proposal, because the number of troops can be reduced to a certain level. There is a critical level under which no further reduction can be made, because otherwise it will no longer be able to perform as an armed institution, much less be expanded in case of threat. There is a size which is considered critical, and below that level it can no longer perform as an Army because it no longer has anything. There is a minimum critical size designed for the Armed Forces, under which it has no reason to exist.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] Are we reaching that level?

[Garcia] I believe that if we are not reaching that critical level we are very close to it. To give you an idea, just take a look at one of the country's requirements for the Armed Forces, that one soldier must be present at all balloting tables in the national elections. It is enough to think how many balloting tables there are to have an idea of this. Moreover, that soldier must be provided with transportation and food. And besides, we must foresee possible substitutes in case of illness. We must also maintain some reserve elements in the theoretical case of public unrest requiring the presence of Army troops to support police actions. Of course, the number of troops within the Armed Forces is a decision to be made by the top political board of the Executive Branch and the national Congress. In sum, we fulfill a mission similar to that of automobile insurance; when there is no accident we think it is very

expensive, but the day we have an accident we say "how lucky we are to have insurance."

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] How many men does the Army currently have?

[Garcia] At this time the Army has 16,100 men. We had 23,500 men in 1985. This means we have suffered very significant troop reductions during this period, almost a third.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] Are there any recruitment problems? Do many women volunteer for Armed Forces positions?

[Garcia] The problem changes according to the country's social and economic situation. We have registered highs and lows in this area. One of the common problems in some cities is the difficulty in finding men for certain jobs. This is the case in places where the level of salaries is better in the private sector. This happens especially in Montevideo, Maldonado, and Rocha, particularly during the summer. The same thing happens in Colonia. We do not have any problems in the rest of the country. We have had increasing problems in filling all positions in Montevideo, along with the drop in the purchasing power of military salaries as of 1985.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] Will the reorganization of the Army include changes in the four divisions that exist today, like the elimination of units, and so forth?

[Garcia] We have not yet decided anything in that area. We have made some decisions in some other areas. We are concentrating services, eliminating expenses, and using our present resources more efficiently. These are all short-term measures. Deeper measures regarding the organization and deployment of troops need more careful study. In the end all decisions will be political. We must not forget that moving a unit from a city is not only a military event; it also provokes very important changes in that population's activities.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] What short-term decisions have been made?

[Garcia] We have made some very important decisions, like moving from the premises on 18 July and Convencion Streets (where the Administrative Support Command used to operate) which was costing us some $4,000 per month. We have also moved from a very large depository on the coastal road near Cuareim Street and concentrated all our installations, saving transport costs and communications. At this time we are implementing a plan to concentrate all services subordinated to the Defense Ministry in a single executive unit. The Command Unit, the Housing Service, the Social Protection Service, and the Retirements and Military Pensions Service will all operate from a single building on Uruguay Avenue. All those services will be concentrated in a single unit with a savings of 10 percent in personnel costs.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] Will there be a single director?

[Garcia] Yes. There will be single director, and the three services will become three departments. As a result of this reorganization we will have a more compact unit with expedited decisionmaking and better administration of resources.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] A plan has been presented which contemplates Armed Forces intervention in maintaining internal order in exceptional situations. What do you think of the proposal?

[Garcia] That is simply a problem of national political decisionmaking. If the executive and Legislative Branches understand that our intervention is necessary, they will produce the necessary legislation for us to perform that role. We simply implement the laws, decrees, and regulations that are approved by the Executive Branch. The problem is certainly not within our jurisdiction. We simply carry out what is stipulated in the law.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] The issue is particularly important because during last year's police strike it was discussed whether the military had the willingness to carry out police functions—that is, to maintain internal order.

[Garcia] I have no doubt about it. I personally think that if the Executive Branch orders an intervention, within the framework of our laws, we will obey. The problem of whether or not to intervene, doubts about our intervention, are not an Army command problem. Those doubts are of a political nature, and must be decided by the Executive Branch.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] Do you mean that if the Executive Branch decides that due to exceptional circumstances the Army must fulfill police functions, you would do it?

[Garcia] Of course we would do it. If the Executive Branch decides something within its legal attributions and we refuse to carry it out, we would be staging a technical coup d'etat.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] There are some ideas, particularly in some Latin American forums, about transforming Latin American armed forces into police forces. How does the Uruguayan Army view these ideas?

[Garcia] It is very clear to me that the police and military institutions are substantially different. The only factor the two institutions have in common is that both are armed. The basic difference between both institutions is that the police are responsible for public order and security, while the Army is responsible for national defense from internal as well as external threats. You cannot change the nature of things. People will always say: "Shoemaker, to your shoes." I think we will always be bad policemen, and the police will always make a bad Army.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] Could the fight against drug trafficking be a military function?

[Garcia] We would have to specify the meaning of the word fight, which could be interpreted in different ways. I

personally think that the function of fighting drug trafficking, as with the repression of crime, has clear police characteristics. The problem is when drug trafficking begins to have too much power within society, when it has the force to perform as a parallel power, adopting gangster-like attitudes, neutralizing police and justice actions. Then we must resort to the Armed Forces, because it is the state's last recourse in fighting them.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] Is the Army investigating this movement called the Artigas Guard? Has the investigation found anyone responsible?

[Garcia] We have not yet found out who is responsible, but you will know when we discover something, because there will be a lot of noise about it. The fact that we are working silently does not mean that we are not doing anything. In these matters I follow the principle: Without haste, but without cease. I have all the time needed, and the day we discover who the members of the so-called Artigas Guard are—as we would do with those responsible for any other irregular movement—we will act energetically, and apply all the legal norms in effect. Some people want to convey the image that I am an extremely strict person, but I am in no way a tyrant. I believe the Army must act with full respect for the chain of command. I try to firmly impose that criteria.

There are still some individuals in the Army who are optimistic enough to believe they can do things without my approval. I hope nothing important will escape from my control. I read everything, and it is my obligation to know everything that occurs within the Army.

[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO] There has been talk about the importance of certain groups, including lodges, inside the Army. What is the real importance of these groups?

[Garcia] I am glad to hear that question, because it is an extremely interesting issue that must be clarified. There have been publications that I thought were very amusing because they required such imagination. I would say that there are people in the Army who are obviously closer to others because of their way of thinking, their tastes, or because they socialize together. These people might be friends, and might agree on certain things, as is natural in any institution with a great number of people operating together. With respect to the existence of tightly closed lodges, as they have been presented to the public, I would say that picture is inaccurate. Many people who appeared to be part of one or another group have said they were only members by chance. There are no groups so structured that they cannot be entered; there are people who meet with the members of one so-called group as much as they do with the members of another so-called group. The situation is a lot looser that it has been presented, including in those groups with a well-founded historical evolution. The Army really does not operate through those channels. The Army works through organic and vertical channels. You can rest completely assured, because we do not have structured lodges having a parallel power structure within the Army. At least as far as I know.

[THE ECONOMIC OBSERVER] There has also been talk about a politicalization of the Armed Forces, or affiliation with political parties.

[Garcia] I can personally tell you that I do not perceive any problem along those lines, or about politicalization or political party affiliations in the Army. But we cannot forget that the Armed Forces are made up of citizens, and we naturally support this or that political group, and vote for them on the day of elections. But we dedicate the rest of our time to something else. As a rule we are not in touch with any political activism, which is expressly forbidden, and which is absolutely unsuitable for the military function. We are informed citizens who feel what the country feels, and who are interested in the different proposals presented by different leaders. But this does not mean we will form groups or separate into groups. We very clearly know that we must remain at a distance from political activities. That is part of our profession. One thing is information, while political action is something entirely different.

President Lacalle Meets UK Minister Heathcoat-Amory

PY1210124893 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0235 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Colonia (Uruguay), 11 Oct (EFE)—In a special audience, Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle today met David Heathcoat-Amory, minister of state for the UK Foreign Office.

The UK official arrived at the Uruguayan presidential cattle ranch, 177 km west of Montevideo [as received], from Buenos Aires, where he is conducting negotiations with the Argentine Government on the situation that developed in the Malvinas Islands after the 1982 war.

According to Uruguayan Government sources, the UK official talked with Lacalle about issues concerning fishing problems in the South Atlantic and using the Uruguayan capital as an air and maritime base of communications for the Malvinas Islands.

The United Kingdom also is interested in developing, jointly with Uruguay, petroleum exploration projects in the Atlantic continental shelf.

Heathcoat-Amory will remain in Uruguay until 12 October. He plans to meet Uruguayan Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu in Montevideo.

Foreign Minister: GATT Talks Should Not Extend Beyond Deadline

PY1310132093 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0213 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Paysandu, Uruguay, 12 Oct, (EFE)—Uruguayan Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu, who presides over the GATT trade negotiations committee, said today that the Uruguay round of talks should not extend beyond 15 December, the date they are scheduled to end.

In statements to the media in Paysandu, 380 km northwest of Montevideo, where he attended a meeting with his Argentine counterpart, Guido Di Tella, Abreu said any extension of the talks "may yield serious damages for international trade and generate confrontations among the different parties."

He said: "An extension of the talks may especially affect the developing countries."

The Uruguayan foreign minister added that a multilateral approach to the negotiations is necessary in order to conclude the round of talks in the planned period.

"The 15 December date has a well-known explanation: It is the deadline for the so-called fast track [via rapida] for the U.S. Government to present a conclusion of the negotiation to Congress," he said.

"Besides, that date was approved by all other trade negotiations committee members. However, there is still a more important reason: The clear perception that beyond the talks themselves, the negotiating process will be worn out and senseless," Abreu said.

After seven years of negotiations—the longest in GATT's history—"another delay would not be advisable," he added.

"All our efforts must currently be oriented to supporting the negotiations carried out by GATT Director General Peter Sutherland in order to reach a general balanced end to the negotiations," Abreu said.

Venezuela

Velasquez Denies Possibility of Coup During Absence

PA1310015893 Paris AFP in Spanish 0008 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Caracas, 13 Oct (AFP)—In a statement published by Caracas newspapers on 12 October, Venezuelan President Ramon J. Velasquez emphatically ruled out the possibility of another coup attempt in that country, where there were two military rebellions last year. Asked about the possibility of a coup during his trip to Trinidad-Tobago, Velasquez said: "No way. No sir. Not at all. If anyone is faithful to democracy, it is the Armed Forces."

Velasquez, who was sworn in as Venezuela's acting president four months ago following the removal of Social Democratic President Carlos Andres Perez, traveled to Trinidad-Tobago on 12 October to attend a presidential summit of the Group of Three (Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela) and the Caribbean Common Market (Caricom). "That is precisely what I will say while abroad: Institutional rule and respect for institutions is real and sincere, and the country is advancing amid the economic, social, and fiscal problems that affect all modern nations," Velasquez stressed. "In Venezuela, the institutions, democracy, and the military forces are working in harmony, seeking a better future," Velasquez noted.

During the past few months there have been persistent rumors in Venezuela of a possible military rebellion to prevent the December presidential and parliamentarian elections.

Helmeyer Said To Be Intelligence, DEA Informant

PA1110223193 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 8 Oct 93 pD-11

[Report by Sandra Guerrero]

[Text] Ramiro Helmeyer, alleged leader of the group that placed eight bombs in the area east of Caracas, was reportedly an informant of the Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services [Disip], the National Guard [GN], and the DEA. He was carrying Disip and GN cards.

A source stated that a GN officer would have been the person in charge of giving "the go ahead" to the engines loaded with cocaine that the Morei Connection was sending to the United States.

Helmeyer, a fugitive from U.S. justice for gunrunning and smuggling in the State of Georgia in 1982, reportedly flew to the United States with a Venezuelan passport issued to Alirio Leon, who is being held in Switzerland for cocaine smuggling and possession. The authorities confiscated $1.5 million from Leon. The DEA accuses him of belonging to the Morei-Ramirez-Torres Connection, the organization that smuggled over 200 kilos of cocaine into Miami. The charge is based on a file of financial deals and tape recordings authorized by U.S. justice.

The authorities established that Helmeyer used illegal means and false pretenses to purchase powerful pistols and revolvers and Remington rifles. It was also reported that businessman Walter Alexander Del Nogal Marquez was held in Switzerland, where the authorities seized $1.7 million and 14 kg of cocaine from him.

The apartment where television actress Maricarmen Regueiro (26) lives, located in the Country Suite Building, Bello Campo, belongs to Helmeyer, with whom she is linked romantically. The two met 10 years ago when she studied with Helmeyer's sister.

In her statement to the Judicial Technical Police [PTJ], the television star said she was unaware that Helmeyer was involved in terrorist acts. On 18 August, when a car bomb went off at the Tamanaco Shopping Center, Regueiro was in Miami, as the passport she produced during the interrogation proved.

The actress gave a statement on Wednesday morning and returned to her house. At 2200 that night, a group of officials went through her house to verify her testimony. At 0300 on Thursday Dr. Lizardi, a forensic doctor, examined her. Lawyer German Macero visited the actress yesterday and found her affected by her situation. Regueiro starred in television soap operas "The Pink Lady" and "Princess," taped in Argentina.

Since Wednesday night, Helmeyer has been making telephone calls to PTJ Director Orlando Jordan Petit to say he would surrender and that Regueiro had nothing to do with those incidents.

Police Arrest 3

PA1310003993 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 11 Oct 93 p dj-1

[Report by Sandra Guerrero]

[Excerpts] Orlando Jordan Petit, director of the Judicial Technical Police [PTJ], has announced the arrest of two national guardsmen and one Navy member who supplied explosives to the group led by Ramiro Helmeyer. Helmeyer is charged with eight explosions in east Caracas, between July and August.

Those arrested are Gustavo Rafael Abreu Acosta (28), a National Guard member who sold the explosives; Denis Osorio, a National Guard corporal; and Pablo Figueroa, a Navy chief master. However, the PTJ is trying to establish if the identity of Osorio and Figueroa are authentic.

Jordan Petit said that the three men who were arrested took courses on explosives and that while in training, they kept remnants of the substances used in their practices, substances they sold to the Helmeyer group. [passage omitted]

The PTJ director said that they are working on something very delicate now and they have to be very careful to determine if it is true that the group of people arrested on Friday and Saturday are involved in efforts to make the Caracas Stock Exchange drop and rise in order to profit from it. [passage omitted]

This seems like an act of terrorism rather than a conspiracy because there are common criminals, Armed Forces personnel, and people from the financial sector who are involved in this case, a reporter noted. I respect your opinion, Jordan Petit remarked, but I cannot work based on speculations. Remember that I am the director of a very serious organization that is handling a very delicate investigation. I must be objective and responsible in the things I say and I cannot go by speculations.

Jordan Petit urged Alberto Cabrices, an explosives expert discharged from the Navy four years ago who is accused of setting up the bombs that exploded in east Caracas, "to turn himself in because there is a large group of men after him." [passage omitted]

Former President Caldera Criticizes Perez

PA0910154793 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 6 Oct 93 pp 1, 14

[Report by Exequiades Chirinos]

[Text] National Convergence candidate Rafael Caldera has stated that the attacks from CAP [Carlos Andres Perez] reveal the evident antithesis between the two of them; adding Perez acted in an undignified way when he allowed his mistress to meddle in the issue of military promotions and appointments in the FAN [National Armed Forces].

Caldera answered the former president's charges during a radio program, "Political Continent," directed by journalists Anahi Arismendi and Clodovaldo Hernandez. Referring to the statements by CAP, saying Caldera's views were unusually insulting to him, the presidential candidate said "former President Perez' language is well-known by the nation, which has a very clear concept of what his statements are worth."

His attacks from a not-so-elegant position, that of a prisoner of justice, helps the country clearly see the situation: Rafael Caldera represents the antithesis of CAP, his government, personal conduct, and political manipulation. He makes sure Venezuelans remember this.

Referring to Defense Minister Vice Admiral Radames Munoz Leon, Caldera said he has frequently been involved in political issues, and this causes a controversy with leaders who feel alluded to by him.

CAP Did Not Want To Talk With Me

CAP said the insurrection began in the country following his 4 February speech. That is when the polls showed an increase in his popularity.

The people felt he fully believed in what he was saying, that he was deeply shaken by what was happening. What occurred on 4 February was a tremendous shock for me, because I felt the country did not fully condemn the event because it felt that, although it was unlawful, a violation of military discipline, a violation of constitutional order, it was motivated by a situation in which the people's rights were disowned.

CAP did not like my speech and we have not spoken since then. He summoned Venezuelans from every sector to Miraflores Palace and when someone asked him if he had talked with Caldera he answered in an insulting way or said "I will do it later." He was quite annoyed by what I had said but, conversely, a large number of Venezuelans believed my words expressed what they felt at the time.

He emphasized that "what happened on 4 February was a symptom, an indication, and I compared it to the action of removing the cover of a pressure cooker and letting out a large quantity of feelings that were being constricted by the Venezuelans' situation."

The fact that he recalled this does not offend me; quite the contrary, it favors me. That day I was fortunate enough to be the voice of a large number of Venezuelans.

Destabilization

I am convinced that all the security corps are infiltrated, corrupt, Caldera said; adding that strong actions against crime involves a revision of the corps to make sure infiltrators have no opportunity to threaten the people and their possessions.

Caldera warned that constitutional order may have been disrupted by two different groups: minority extreme left groups that always refused to join the peace process and endorsed the thesis of violence; and the group of people around the presidents who have been sent to trial, CAP and Jaime Lusinchi. This includes a large number of people who want to obstruct the process and provoke disruptions.

He said it was wrong to cause destabilization because, if a coup d'etat does occur, those who seize power would have to harshly condemn and persecute the corrupt to justify their actions before the people.

Undoubtedly, CAP's mafia, a secret criminal organization made up to defend certain people's interests, bases its strength on their common interests and illegal actions, including their lifestyle. Caldera added that certain people in the political, economic, and military sector live in a luxurious and ostentatious way that is not compatible with their known income; adding that President Perez undoubtedly failed to act with dignity, justice, and seriousness as FAN commander.

He tried to create a group of supporters and friends who not only had close ties with him and but also with his mistress. She meddled in the issue of military promotions and appointments within the FAN.

CAP insists you should be questioned by the military authorities, concerning the mafia you report, to be more exact.

I am not an investigator and I do not have an intelligence service, but I do not think it would be difficult to determine whether or not there are members of that mafia at every level our economic and political sectors, even our military sector.

Changes in the FAN

Referring to the FAN, Caldera said there prevails a situation that must necessarily be solved; adding that political changes in his government will include the Armed Forces. Essentially, the principles that are instilled in cadets, meaning the promotion of ethical principles, must be reinstated.

Regarding his position on the military involved in the two foiled coups d'etat and the possibility of releasing them, he said he did not want to take part in political demagoguery, but he is convinced that any government elected on 5 December will have to seek the most adequate procedure to return to them their freedom because that is the general feeling, and we must admit that is a step toward the achievement of peace in the country.

Caldera recalled that when he was president he helped achieve peace with subversive groups, a fact that allowed Venezuela to live more than 20 years without guerrilla groups. Carlos Andres Perez, who was Democratic Action secretary at the time, tried to provoke unrest within the FAN by saying I would turn over the country to the communists and this could not be allowed. I had the FAN's support prior to that.

Minister Rejects Caldera Comments

PA0910134993 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 6 Oct 93 p 1-14

[Report on interview with Defense Minister Vice Admiral Radames Munoz Leon by B.G.V. in Caracas; date not given]

[Text] How can a man such as former President Rafael Caldera, who was once and aspires again to be commander in chief of the National Armed Forces [FAN], link the Armed Forces to the practices of mafia groups? Defense Minister Vice Admiral Radames Munoz Leon has asked this question.

The military chief met briefly in Fort Tiuna with reporters after a three-hour meeting with the Military High Command, Supreme Electoral Council, Seconssede [not further identified], the FAN operations chief, and 26 garrison commanders to learn about the planning of and progress achieved in the implementation of the seventh Republic Plan.

Men of Honor, Not Mafiosos

The use of that kind of language by a former FAN commander strongly calls our attention and bothers us as soldiers. We, soldiers, and he should know this very well, are men of honor, with a sense of group unity, but not mafiosos," the real admiral added.

[B.G.V.] Should a military trial be requested for the president? What is your opinion?

[Munoz] Instead of talking about that, trials, we would like them to keep the president from pronouncing political diatribes... and they should also keep the FAN out of them.

[B.G.V.] Minister, will the FAN stage a coup?

[Munoz] When will you stop talking about such nonsense? Have the Armed Forces not shown unity against two coup attempts that we put down successfully? Has it not been sufficiently proven that we have nothing to do with attempts to topple democracy? We, soldiers, are involved in the Republic Plan by distributing bundles and school supplies, by protecting our borders, and by fulfilling our duties.

He Should Tend to His Duties

[B.G.V.] What is your reply to [Radical Cause presidential candidate] Andres Velasquez' letter?

[Munoz] Instead of sending me letters he should be telling the country about his government program and how he will solve the country's fiscal problems; in other words, he should not distract himself by sending me letters, he should tend to his own affairs.

Finally, the minister also sent a message to Isturiz. I urge [Caracas] Mayor Aristobulo Isturiz to help the homeless. We have 1,000 at Fort Tiuna. They have been virtually abandoned, they have been forgotten, they are running out of food, and our ability to help them is also being exhausted. In keeping with the Constitution, the FAN must complete enlistment and conscription in each garrison. In Caracas we must enlist and train nearly 1,000 recruits but we do not have a place to house them because the Conscripts Garrison is already full.

Defense Minister Comments on Chavez Allegations

PA1010130793 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 7 Oct 93 p D-4

[Text] Defense Minister Rear Admiral Radames Munoz Leon has described coupist Lieutenant Colonel Hugo Chavez Frias's allegations that President Ramon Velasquez is a prisoner of the military High Command as "disrespectful" and "irresponsible." Meanwhile, Interior Minister Carlos Delgado has confirmed that he will be in charge of the presidency for 24 hours, while President Velasquez visits Trinidad and Tobago where the meeting of the Group of Three [Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela, G-3] and Caribbean Common Market [Caricom] presidents will take place.

Defense Minister Rear Admiral Radames Munoz Leon has agreed with his Interior Ministry colleague, Carlos Delgado, that the authors of the car bomb attacks tried to produce financial instability and also attempted to create a coup d'etat atmosphere. Munoz recalled that he previously said that anarchical groups are behind terrorist activities, but he would not point to any specific tendency, leftist or rightist.

He noted: I am not talking about financial groups. I spoke of individuals having those intentions. We have to use our words carefully when referring to people who correctly and honestly work in the finance sector. The persons involved must be identified by name. The arrest of three or four persons from the financial world does not mean that they represent the thinking of that sector, but that they represent an anarchic position.

He said: "These are anarchic persons. Their objective was to create a difficult economic situation and to gain a coup d'etat." Munoz said he has no evidence to prove that these persons were also involved in bank attacks.

Disrespectful Chavez

In addition, the defense minister described as "disrespectful" and "irresponsible" the statements made by coupist Lieutenant Colonel Hugo Chavez Frias, who said a "bloodless" military coup has taken place and that President Velasquez is a prisoner of the Military High Command. "He is a prisoner of military justice and the truth is that I do not think these types of statements against the president of the Republic deserve a response," the minister said. He denied reports on the alleged discovery of a massive escape plan at Yare prison, where the leaders of past coup attempts are imprisoned.

Asked about MAS [Movement Toward Socialism] insistence in pointing out that Herminio Fuenmayor and Orlando Garcia are the leaders of the mafia within the National Armed Forces [FAN], he said that political parties must stop making these types of accusations without presenting evidence and must instead tell the country how their most urgent problems will be resolved. I would like to respond to these kinds of accusations in a court room. I would like them to file a concrete charge so that all necessary investigations can be conducted. That way the legal system would determine if these things are true or not.

He reiterated his call to the political parties to take the FAN out of the electoral campaign. He said he hopes MAS stops reinforcing its idea, which judging from the accusations they have been making, is aimed against him and the Armed Forces in general.

He confirmed reports about the operations conducted by the National Guard in Tachira regarding drug trafficking and other related activities. He reported 10 persons being arrested as a result of raids, the closing of exchange houses, and searches of some houses and businesses. He confirmed the figures given by the National Guard in Tachira, which had announced the confiscation of money and property worth some 800 million bolivares from a band that reportedly laundered nearly $200 million. He said that during the operation, as well as in others, cooperation was received from the DEA in the United States.

As for the identity of the ultra leftist group, which had reportedly tried to kidnap the wife of a top FAN officer to force him to head a coup d'etat, Munoz Leon said: There are so many groups and so many names now that one no longer knows if they are ultra-leftist groups, if they are a gang, or a mafia as they say.

Acting President

President Velasquez asked Interior Minister Carlos Delgado Chapellin to be in charge of the presidency during the summit between the G-3 and Caricom, which will be held in Trinidad and Tobago on 12 and 13 October. Chapellin briefed journalists about the trip. Velasquez will travel at 1700 on 12 October and he will be the second president to speak at the summit.

The minister also reported on his visit to the islands of Los Roques, La Orchila, and La Blanquilla, about which there are plans to turn them into federal territories. He said the islands represent immense tourism potential for Venezuela and he congratulated the Navy for the "impeccable" maintenance of the place. He said the plans to turn the islands into federal territories will be carefully reviewed so as not to adversely affect their ecology.

Causa R Candidate Letter to Defense Minister

PA0810233893 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 5 Oct 93 pp 1, 14

["Text" of "open letter" from Andres Velasquez, Radical Cause Party presidential candidate, to Rear Admiral Defense Minister Radames Munoz Leon; date not given]

[Text] Rear Admiral

Radames Munoz Leon

Defense Minister

Mr. Minister: Of late, most of Venezuelan society has been surprised to discover that its principal political leaders, in which the majority of the people have placed their confidence, not only lack the sense to govern effectively but also lack the elemental decency to respect public funds.

Therefore, the crisis has a dual nature. On the one hand, there is a series of difficult problems currently faced by the people. On the other hand, and perhaps this is the bright side, the crisis is causing a positively tremendous reaction among the Venezuelan people, who apparently want to have a more active role in shaping their own destiny.

Mr. Minister, despite all the bad things that have happened, this is very positive. The people must gain awareness, must delve deep into the problems, must doubt the good intentions of the government, must dare to protest, must demand more democracy, and must confront corruption and everything that is bad.

That is not the crisis. On the contrary, it is the only possible remedy to counter the crisis. The people must gain awareness and culture, asume their sovereign role, as happens in all civilized nations, as the only way of overcoming this dark moment that the political class has bequeathed to us. The workers know this, but so do the businessmen, teachers, politicians, military, and the media. Everyone knows this.

Mr. Minister, you, however, appear to be very nervous about this state of affairs. Obviously the situation is very delicate. The threat of an attack on democracy, however, does not appear to come from the people's side. On the contrary, it appears to emanate from the structure of power that appears to be weakening daily. If it involves safeguarding democracy, and in this we fully agree with you, we would have to start by asking who would benefit from a breakdown in law? Not the people, of course. Not those engaged in the social struggle or the members of the Radical Cause [Causa R]. A breakdown in law would benefit the corrupt who have led us to the crisis. That is the truth, Mr. Minister. Everyone knows this and so do you.

Perhaps, concerned about these things, you have become, according to your own words, a spokesperson for the Armed Forces. This was the expression you used with Mr. Alfaro Ucero to justify the contant public appearances in which you pass political judgment on the situation in Venezuela.

Having reached this point, you must explain the following to the people: By constitutional mandate, the Armed Forces are an apolitical institution. In light of this, how can one legally justify the existence of a political spokesperson? Obviously, it would violate legality. From a moral standpoint, it would be reproachable, undoubtedly. To convert the Armed Forces into a sort of political party would imply extolling all of that which we Venezuelans have been fighting against of late. To make use of an institution, which by definition has been upright and of obliged discipline, would be reproducing the scheme of the top leaders of political parties who have done so much harm to the country. Besides, all Venezuelans pay for the Armed Forces.

For our part, we reiterate that the Armed Forces cannot have party leanings, much less play an active role in this electoral process. When the ruling political class envisages its eminently historical defeat, it attempts to resort to its cadres within the Armed Forces to step in and influence the process. That, Mr. Minister, goes to show just how far along things are. That is where you should show more compliance with the constitution and ensure its strict fulfillment. In any event, those military who want to participate in politics should follow the example of Arias Cardenas and request your immediate discharge.

It goes without saying that Causa R wants a different country and is fully convinced this better country can only be achieved in a democracy. In our plan, within a democracy, the truly nonpolitical Armed Forces, that is, free of the dependence forced upon them by the political parties, will have a glorious role to play. If any one party has shown respect for the Armed Forces it has been Causa R. We have not used any Armed Forces sector. We do not have partisans within the Armed Forces, and everybody knows it. What we do have is great respect for them because the country we want is a country of equals. Our actions more than our words prove this.

In Bolivar, where we have had some experience in governing, our relations with the military have been excellent. The Guayana people, even soldiers, can attest to this. We have never asked any man in uniform to join our party, as AD [Democratic Action] and Copei [Social Christian Party] have done. Let us keep in mind the promotion reward.

Therefore, Mr. Minister, here is our view of things in light of the current situation. Causa R exists because the people support it. Neither power and nor wealth have given us the position we now hold. We do not use the force of power to manipulate the media or public opinion.

Mr. Minister, Venezuela needs a peaceful, democratic, and legal change. To our way of thinking, the Armed Forces' role is to guarantee that commitment to change, expressed through different manners, is not thwarted. That is why we welcome your prudence in stating the Armed Forces will recognize a Causa R victory, as this will indeed happen in December.

Venezuela deserves better days, for you, your children and ours, for all of us. Venezuela does not deserve to return to the past.

[Issued in] Caracas, 2 October 1993.

Attorney Arrested in Money-Laundering Investigation

PA1210132593 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 8 Oct 93 p 4-24

[Report by Ebis Romero, correspondent for INFORMACIONES NACIONALES news agency]

[Text] Maracaibo, 7 Oct—Jose Ignacio Perozo Gori, a Zulia State attorney and businessman, was arrested on 7 October in Maracaibo by National Guard Intelligence Division officials. He is allegedly involved in $200-million worth of property that was confiscated from money-laundering organizations.

The information was divulged by General Jesus Antonio Rojas Salazar, chief of National Guard Command No. 3, who added that Attorney Perozo is allegedly involved in the case of 47 million bolivares seized by the National Guard in mid-1993 near the Colombian border. The high-ranking officer said that the money was exchanged in area banks for dollars and sent abroad.

Gen. Rojas Salazar explained that Attorney Jose Ignacio Perozo's job was to introduce dollars into the Venezuelan financial system, presumably from drug trafficking. Several ranches in Zulia and Tachira State, apartments, country houses, vehicles, real estate, businesses, construction companies, and other properties were confiscated from Attorney Perozo. All this property was confiscated following instructions from the Federal District First Penal Court. Last, Gen. Rojas Salazar stressed: "No new arrests have been made in connection with this case. Furthermore, this group of businessmen is being investigated by state organizations jointly with the CIA, DEA, and U.S. Customs."

DEA Agents Participate in Probe

PA1210132293 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 8 Oct 93 p 4-24

["Special report" by Indalecio Chacon, correspondent for INFORMACIONES NACIONALES news agency]

[Text] San Cristobal, 7 Oct—Some 12 DEA officials arrived in San Antonio this morning by air to take part in an ongoing investigation in connection with the laundering of drug-trafficking money. The investigation began on 5 October when Operation Sierra Carlos got under way.

The investigation continued today and military and civilian personnel were seen breaking padlocks and locks in San Antonio exchange houses to gain entry to videotape and take photographs. Exchange houses that have been raided or placed under military surveillance have signs on their doors that read "shut down." It was learned that thousands of dollars were withheld by civilian and military personnel entrusted with operations to counter money laundering.

Many late-model vehicles were seized and towed to the National Guard's Detachment No. 11, where many troops have been gathered since 5 October. Types of vehicles in the hands of military authorities include Renault 11's, Renault 21's, Luminas, Broncos, and Silverados. Other vehicles and several cardboard boxes believed to contain dollars were removed from the El Vagon building parking lot. It was learned that a brother of the building owner has been arrested. Commercial activities and binational trade have been affected by the operations, according to border business spokesmen.